

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 279

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 279 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DANGEROUS DRUGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to conform fentanyl to the possession offense thresholds for methamphetamine, heroin, morphine, and cocaine.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, one member of the Kaua'i County Council, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the Uniform Controlled Substances Act classifies fentanyl as a dangerous drug, and in recent years fentanyl has emerged as a serious public health threat and law enforcement challenge. In 2022, synthetic opioids, primarily illicit fentanyl, represented more than two-thirds of drug overdose deaths nationwide. This measure will combat the increasing prevalence of fentanyl by targeting fentanyl distributors and those possessing amounts highly corroborative of intent to distribute.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your



Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 279 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 279	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 2/5/25
--	-----------------------------------	------------------------

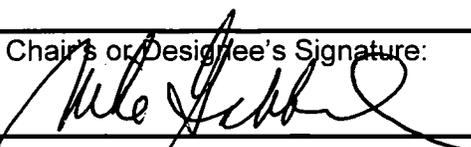
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


Distribution:
 Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod
 File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**