

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1549
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1549
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to repeal the law prohibiting
drug paraphernalia under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the State Health Planning and Development Agency; Office of
the Public Defender; Hep Free Hawaii; Hawai'i Health & Harm
Reduction Center; Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii; and two
individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to
this measure from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of
the County of Maui; Maui Police Department; Honolulu Police
Department; and one individual. Your Committee received comments
on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that despite several reports by leading
public health organizations that criminalization-based drug
policies result in worse health outcomes for individuals who use
drugs by creating barriers to accessing sterile and safer use
supplies, increasing the risk of overdose and transmission of
infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C, and diverting
limited public resources away from prevention and treatment

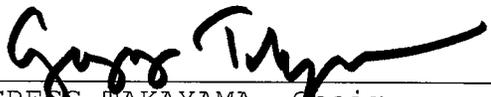


efforts, possession of drug paraphernalia continues to serve as an entry point into the criminal legal system in Hawaii. Your Committee further finds that the State's existing criminalization-based drug policy disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian and other minority residents, individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals with untreated substance use or mental health conditions. This measure seeks to strengthen existing public health programs, reduce preventable harm, and advance health equality for communities across the State by repealing the law that prohibits drug paraphernalia.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1549, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1549, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

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



GREGG TAKAYAMA, Chair



