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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HONOLULU SET TO BECOME FIRST MAJOR U.S. CITY
TO REQUIRE NARCAN IN BARS, NIGHTCLUBS**

HONOLULU, HAWAII - The Honolulu City Council passed [Bill 28. "Relating to Naloxone."](#) on Wednesday, setting up Honolulu to be the first city in the United States to require that bars, nightclubs, and other high-risk venues keep doses naloxone spray (Narcan) on site.

The bill, proposed by Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, comes just four-months after the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) [granted over-the-counter approval](#) to Narcan, the opioid-reversal medication.

"The opioid crisis is real. Just a month ago, two people died in a mass overdose in Waikīkī. That's two families that lost a child, a sibling, or an uncle. Three more were sent to the hospital. We can't keep letting this happen," said Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam. "This bill takes action: it puts a life-saving medication in the places that need it. It will prevent more tragedies, like what happened in Waikīkī, from happening again."

Like much of the country, Honolulu has experienced a concerning increase in opioid overdoses in recent years. From August 2017 to August 2018, [the Hawai'i State Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) reported 59 opioid-overdose deaths in the State. In 2020, that number increased to 274, a nearly 500% increase.

The problem gets worse when opioids are mixed with alcohol. [Both substances are "respiratory depressants."](#) When mixed, they can lead to impaired motor control, respiratory arrest, or fatal overdose, among other things. According to some business owners and public health experts, this has put liquor-serving establishments at high-risk of an overdose on their premises.

"Overdoses happen, especially when mixed with alcohol. Our bars and nightclubs must be prepared for every contingency. I am grateful that the City Council is taking on this important issue. This bill will protect businesses, patrons, and the public at large," said Robbie Baldwin, owner of Scarlet Honolulu, a Chinatown nightclub, who supports the bill.

To assist affected businesses in acquiring naloxone, the Honolulu Liquor Commission has agreed to provide free "starter doses" for all liquor-licensees. There are plans to use portions of [the nearly \\$1.4 million](#) in [opioid settlement](#) monies for replacement doses.

"We are witnessing an alarming increase in the use of fentanyl which has infiltrated into our communities. Our neighbors and friends who should still be here, are no longer with us," said Jim Ireland, Director of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department. "We believe this bill will save lives."

Bill 28 (2023) has passed final reading by the Honolulu City Council and will now be sent to the Mayor for signature. The Mayor has until July 22, 2023 to sign the bill into law.

Dos Santos-Tam represents City Council District 6, which spans from Kaka'ako to Kalihi, and includes portions of Kaka'ako, Chinatown, Downtown, Punchbowl, Papakōlea, Pauoa Valley, Nu'uuanu, Iwilei, Liliha, 'Ālewa Heights, Kalihi and Kalihi Valley.

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