

## MT Committee

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**From:** Rick Collins <rick@hiphi.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 09, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** MT Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: HSAC Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** HSAC Letter of Support - Lowering BAC MCDY.docx

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rick Collins** <[rick@hiphi.org](mailto:rick@hiphi.org)>  
Date: Wed, Oct 9, 2019 at 2:45 PM  
Subject: HSAC Letter of Support  
To: <[a.kekoolani@honolulu.gov](mailto:a.kekoolani@honolulu.gov)>  
Cc: <[yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us](mailto:yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us)>, <[kelly.king@mauicounty.us](mailto:kelly.king@mauicounty.us)>, Ashlee Chapman <[Ashlee@hiphi.org](mailto:Ashlee@hiphi.org)>

Aloha,

Please find the attached letter of support for Maui County's Legislative Package on "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Use of Intoxicants While Operating a Vehicle." Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Have a great day and mahalo in advance for your time!

Mahalo,

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**Rick Collins, CPS**  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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October 9th, 2019

President Joey Manahan and Members of the Executive Committee  
Hawaii State Association of Counties  
% Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [a.kekoolani@honolulu.gov](mailto:a.kekoolani@honolulu.gov)

Dear President Manahan and Members of the Executive Committee:

Subject: Support for "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF INTOXICANTS WHILE OPERATING A VEHICLE"

We, the Maui Coalition for Drug-Free Youth (Coalition), maintain a mission to reduce and prevent underage drinking and associated harms within Maui County. Part of that mission is to improve the quality of life for all residents, youth and adults. Roadway safety and addressing the devastating impacts of drunk driving is a major concern that impacts our mission. Standing with other organizations, individuals, and the Maui County Council we seek to provide our support for "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF INTOXICANTS WHILE OPERATING A VEHICLE" that seeks to reduce the legal threshold of blood alcohol concentration from 0.08 to 0.05 for the offense of operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant.

According to The Maui News, alcohol and drugs have been a major factor in two-thirds of Maui County's fatal and near traffic crashes in 2019 and traffic deaths have been on the rise with an increase of 40% this year alone (Maui News, 07-27-19). These startling statistics, along with the support of the community reflect that Maui County is in great need of policy that will reduce the amount of individuals who drive while intoxicated that make our roads deadly. We need to save lives and in doing so support the aforementioned bill as part of the Maui County Legislative Packet. The National Academies of Sciences<sup>1</sup>, with support from the National Traffic Safety Board<sup>2</sup> indicate through research that lowering the legal threshold of blood alcohol concentration (BAC) from 0.08 to 0.05 for the offense of operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant is an effective policy approach to lowering DUI rates, reducing DUI related fatalities, and consumption rates of alcohol within the community. We, the Coalition

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<sup>1</sup> Teutsch, S., et al. (July 17, 2018). "Getting to Zero Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities: A Comprehensive Approach to a Persistent Problem." *The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*. Retrieved from <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2018/getting-to-zero-alcohol-impaired-driving-fatalities.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> (Feb. 2017) ".05 BAC Safety Briefing Facts: Decades of research show that .05% BAC laws can save lives on the roads." *National Traffic Safety Board*. Retrieved from <https://www.nts.gov/news/speeches/T-Bella-Dinh-Zarr/Documents/05BAC-Safety-Briefing-Facts.pdf>



strongly support the inclusion of this bill in the 2020 Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) legislative package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Collins" followed by the initials "CPS".

Richard Collins,  
Coalition Director  
201 Pi'imauna St., Makawao, HI 96768  
(808)728-4656