



News Release - Hawaii House of Representatives

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Lawmakers briefed on Meth Use in Hawaii

HONOLULU. The House committees on the Judiciary, Public Safety, and Human Services today held an informational briefing to learn more about The Hawaii Meth Project and its impact on the community to date. The Hawaii Meth Project is a large-scale, privately funded prevention program aimed at reducing Meth use through public service messaging, public policy, and community outreach. The statewide program is aimed at educating teens, early and often, about the risks of Meth use.

The members of the committees heard startling statistics on Meth use in Hawaii:

- Hawaii ranks third in the nation for Meth-related treatment admission.
- Hawaii ranks fourth in the nation for Meth-related drug offenses.
- In Hawaii alone, Meth-related emergency room costs totaled \$43 million in 2006.
- Meth use among 10th graders in Hawaii has increased 87% over a two-year period, from 2005 to 2007.

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu (District 41-Waipahu, Village Park, Waikele) is the House Judiciary chairman who oversees legislation on drug prevention.

“Education and awareness of the dangers of Meth are critical in preventing our friends and family from ever trying this dangerous drug,” said Rep. Karamatsu. “The Hawaii Meth Project is really showing how it can affect all of us. If a program like this can reduce the number of Meth users, it will save the state of Hawaii millions of dollars.”

“The results of the 2009 Hawaii Use & Attitudes Survey were quite disturbing,” said Cindy Adams, executive director, Hawaii Meth Project. “One in eight Hawaii teens (12%) report they have been offered Meth, three in ten (30%) see little to no risk in trying Meth, and many see benefits in using the drug. The Hawaii Meth Project aims to significantly reduce first-time Meth use among teens by educating them about the realities of Meth and increasing parent-child discussion, which is known to be a powerful tool in preventing risky behavior among teens. Focus on prevention will have a direct impact on reducing the cost of meth use to our state.”

(more)

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Hawaii Meth Project

The program, which has gained nationwide attention for its uncompromising approach and demonstrated impact, has won 45 awards, including 11 Gold ADDY Awards, 19 Silver ADDY Awards, 2 Gold Effie Awards, and the Cannes Lions Award at the Cannes International Advertising Festival.

For more information on Meth-use in Hawaii, visit the Hawaii Meth Project website:
<https://www.hawaiimethproject.org/index.php>

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Contact:
Office of Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu
808-586-8490