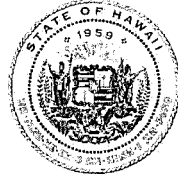


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1500

DANA O. VIOLA
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 21, 2019
RE: Fighting the Opioid Epidemic- The Riverton Story

Good Morning Chairs Baker and Mizuno and Members of the Committees,

My name is Valerie Mariano and I am the Community and Crime Prevention Branch Chief at the Department of the Attorney General. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Hawaii Medication Drop Box and Disposal Program and the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative.

The Hawaii Medication Drop Box and Disposal Program ("Program") is a public health and safety partnership between the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Department of the Attorney General; Department of Health; Department of Public Safety; and the Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Police Departments. In 2017, then-Attorney General Doug Chin facilitated the meetings for this partnership and continued to do so through 2018 as Lieutenant Governor. The members last met in November 2018 after 10 medication drop box locations were established at county police stations and 1 medication drop box location was established at the Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division.

The installation of the medication drop boxes at county police stations and the Department of Public Safety provides the public with the opportunity to drop off unused prescription medication at their convenience throughout the year. The Program expands the scope of the scheduled prescription drug take back events. The goal of the Program is similar to the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators Drop Box Program, which is "to reduce the prescription drugs in homes that are either no longer needed or outdated. These same drugs unfortunately have become the target of theft and misuse, oftentimes by people who have access to the residence."

Expired medicine also should not be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Proper disposal helps reduce the risk of prescription drugs entering the human water supply or potentially harming aquatic life.

The Program is guided by rules established to implement the Federal Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 (Act). The Act expands the options available to

collect controlled substances from ultimate users for the purpose of disposal, including: Take-back events, mail-back programs, and collection receptacle locations. The regulations finalized in September 9, 2014, contain specific language allowing law enforcement to voluntarily continue to conduct take-back events, administer mail-back programs, and maintain collection receptacles. The regulations also allow authorized manufacturers, distributors, reverse distributors, narcotic treatment programs, hospitals/clinics with an on-site pharmacy, and retail pharmacies to voluntarily administer mail-back programs and maintain collection receptacles. In addition, the rules expand the authority of authorized hospitals/clinics and retail pharmacies to voluntarily maintain collection receptacles at long-term care facilities.¹

The Program is part of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative, an initiative that began in July 2017. “The Initiative brings together stakeholders from the public and private sector, and with both public health and public safety focus. The overarching goal is to develop and implement a proactive coordinated statewide Action Plan on opioids and other substance misuse issues.”² The locations of the medication drop boxes (including those at Longs Drugs-CVS) can be found at the Hawaii Opioid Initiative website at <https://hawaiiopioid.org/drug-take-back/>.

As mentioned earlier, the Program works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Drug Enforcement Division, National Prescription Drug Take Back (NTBI) events and the Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division, Hawaii Medication Take Back events. The October 26, 2019 National Take Back Initiative was the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s 17th annual take back, and the 10th annual for the State of Hawaii.

Please refer to the chart titled, “NTBI Totals for Hawaii”. The chart reflects the amounts collected each year beginning in 2010 when the State began participating in the National Take Back Initiative. The most recent numbers indicate that the amounts collected have decreased possibly as a result of the drop boxes at the police stations and at Longs Drugs.

We support efforts to safely remove and destroy unwanted and expired prescription medication as approved by the DEA, PSD-Narcotics Enforcement Division, and Department of Health.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you the Department’s partnerships and the results of the take back program and the State’s coordinated efforts on opioids and other substance misuse.

¹ September 9, 2014 Federal Register, Disposal of Controlled Substances; Final Rules
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-09-09/pdf/2014-20926.pdf>

² Hawaii Department of Health, The Hawaii Opioid Initiative, a Statewide Response, 2017

14-Nov-19

NTBI	9/25/10	4/29/11	10/1/11	4/28/12	9/29/12	4/29/13	10/26/13	4/26/14	9/27/14	4/28/15	10/22/16	4/28/17	10/28/18	4/28/18	10/27/18	4/27/2019	10/26/2019
OAHU	732	1,199	1,028	1,786	994	1,764	1,791	2,186	1,264	2,246	1,689	3,385	2,132	3,385	3,272	5,254	1,976
KAUAI	107	28	120	179	125	123	151	149	187	97	318	273	219	273	102	129	103
MAUI	98	47	65	105	79	135	120	143	47	55	78	224	78	224	113	91	91
HILO	123	5	338	230	121	71	207	224	213	456	217	450	209	450	182	256	303
KONA	57	-	120	53	12	57	88	33	57	45	160	250	77	250	240	206	330
MOLOKAI	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1,135	1,279	1,672	2,353	1,331	2,150	2,356	2,735	1,768	2,899	2,462	4,582	2,715	4,582	3,909	5,936	2,803

NTBI	9/25/10	4/29/11	10/1/11	4/28/12	9/29/12	4/29/13	10/26/13	4/26/14	9/27/14	4/28/15	10/22/16	4/28/17	10/28/18	4/28/18	10/27/18	4/27/2019	10/26/2019
Totals	1,135	1,279	1,672	2,353	1,331	2,150	2,356	2,735	1,768	2,899	2,462	4,582	2,715	4,582	3,909	5,936	2,803

NTBI Totals for Hawaii

Data reflects State of Hawaii figures (Guam and the Northern Mariana are not reflected) as provided by the DEA. Take Back was not held in April 2015.

