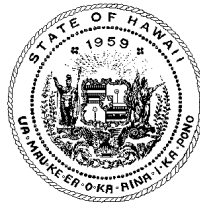


DAVID Y. IGE
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STATE OF HAWAII
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1192, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

By
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

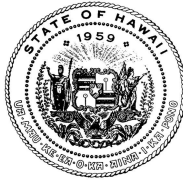
Wednesday, February 24, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill 1192, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which proposes to amend Sections 329-101(b) and (d) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), to require that the dispensing of a pharmacist-prescribed opioid antagonist be reported to the State's Electronic Prescription Accountability System (EPAS), more commonly known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). This measure aligns with and supports the goals of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative.

In 2019, the Legislature passed Act 255, which allows pharmacists to issue prescriptions for opioid-antagonists, thereby increasing access to these lifesaving drugs. SB 1192, SD 1, would require pharmacists to report opioid antagonist prescriptions to the PDMP, using procedures that are very familiar to them. Such a reporting requirement would not substantially add to a pharmacist's workload and would allow State Department of Health (DOH) epidemiologists, who already have access to the PDMP, to efficiently measure the effectiveness of Act 255. This measure would provide DOH with additional data useful in helping prevent opioid overdoses.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1192 SD1
RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 2/24/2021 Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure falls within the scope of the
3 Department's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a
4 comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public,
5 private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying
6 out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and
7 person-centered. The BHA's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) provides the following
8 testimony on behalf of the Department.

9 The Department supports this initiative by the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to use its
10 electronic prescription accountability system (EPAS) as a centralized repository for reporting
11 opioid antagonist dispensing by pharmacists. Presently, efforts to track dispensing and
12 distribution of opioid antagonists such as naloxone are decentralized. The Department defers to
13 the PSD on implementation benchmarks such as identifying which opioid antagonists to track in
14 the future, and coordinating any system enhancements to the EPAS.

15 This measure also aligns with the following objectives of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative:

- 16
- Propose legislation to amend administrative rules and reduce over-prescribing or
17 prescribing practices that are of concern (separate from law enforcement);
 - Continue to collaborate with PSD for EPAS utilization and enhancements.
- 18

1 The ADAD is also working closely with PSD's Narcotics Enforcement Division to support the
2 enhancement of the EPAS to better facilitate opioid antagonist dispensing by pharmacists, as
3 well as provide for prescriber education on how to use the system.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.