



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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News Release 2015-38

Got Drugs? Prescription Drug Take Back Event in September

HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General is once again partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and State Narcotics Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety to coordinate two prescription take back events:

- 1) On September 25-27, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the Department of the Attorney General, State Narcotics Enforcement Division, and UH Hilo, School of Pharmacy, will have a collection site on Oahu at The Good Life Expo, Seniors' Fair at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Center.
- 2) On Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Department of the Attorney General, DEA, and State Narcotics Enforcement Division will be participating in DEA's 10th National Take Back Initiative on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii. Anyone with expired or unused prescription medications is encouraged to bring their medications to a designated collection site. A list of designated collection sites is attached or visit www.dea.gov or www.ag.hawaii.gov.

This service is free and anonymous – no questions asked. Tablets, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms of medication will be accepted. New or used needles and syringes will not be accepted.

"This is a great opportunity for those who have missed the previous events or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs to safely dispose of those medications," said **Attorney General Douglas Chin**. "Prescriptions expire and collect on people's shelves over time and simply throwing drugs in the trash may be risky. The Take Back initiative promotes safe disposal of prescription drugs."

"DEA is enthusiastic about working in conjunction with the community and our state and local counterparts in the 10th National Prescription Drug Take Back. Prescription drug abuse is at dire levels, so please participate and rid your home of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications," says **Robin Dinlocker, Assistant Special Agent in Charge**.

Keith Kamita, Administrator, Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED), Department of Public Safety, says “NED will continue to ensure that the citizens of Hawaii have a means to dispose of their outdated or unwanted pharmaceutical controlled substances. NED and its partners will continue to host take back events on all islands to ensure secure methods of collection and destruction of prescription medication to make sure these drugs do not get into the wrong hands and cause traffic outcomes. NED has also initiated a program to place secure drop boxes to be located in select police departments and hospitals that would be serviced by NED Special Agents giving the public a secure means to getting rid of their unwanted or expired pharmaceutical medication at their convenience.”

According to the DEA, many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are at alarming rates, as are the rates of accidental poisoning and overdose due to these drugs. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

In the previous nine Take Back events nationwide from 2010-2014, 4,823,251, or 2,411 tons of drugs were collected. Since 2010, Hawaii has collected 16,778 pounds of drugs.

Unused or expired medicine should be disposed of properly when it is no longer needed for the illness for which it was prescribed.

- Medicines may lose their effectiveness after the expiration date.
- Improper use of prescription drugs can be as dangerous as illegal drug use.

Having unused and expired medicine in your home increases the risk of accidental poisoning.

- Homes where children or the elderly live are especially vulnerable to this danger.
- People may mistake one type of medicine for another type. Children may mistake medicine for candy.

Unused or expired medicine should not be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet.

- Proper disposal helps reduce the risk of prescription drugs entering a human water supply or potentially harming aquatic life.

For more information, please visit www.dea.gov or www.ag.hawaii.gov.

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**Department of the Attorney General
Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division**



**Department of Public Safety
Narcotics Enforcement Division**



**University of Hawaii - Hilo
College of Pharmacy**



MEDICATION TAKE BACK PROGRAM

**Turn in your unused or expired
medication for a safe, anonymous disposal.**

**Hawaii Seniors' Fair - The Good Life Expo
September 25 - 27, 2015
8:30AM - 4:30PM
@ Blaisdell Exhibition Hall - Booth #504**

New or used needles and syringes will not be accepted.

National TAKE-BACK Initiative (NTBI)

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe, anonymous disposal.



NEW OR USED NEEDLES AND SYRINGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Saturday, September 26, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

OAHU:

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| ◆ Hawaii State Capitol - Beretania Street drive-thru | 415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI |
| ◆ Kahala Mall - inside mall | 4211 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, HI |
| ◆ Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) - front of Exchange | Kaneohe Bay, HI (<i>Must have base access</i>) |
| ◆ Pearl City Police Station - parking lot | 1100 Waimano Home Rd., Pearl City, HI |
| ◆ Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) - main lobby | 4725 Bouganville Drive, Honolulu, HI |
| ◆ Schofield Barracks Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Post Exchange (PX) - inside near flower shop | Schofield Barracks, HI (<i>Must have base access</i>) |
| ◆ Mililani High School - parking lot A near cafeteria | 95-1200 Meheula Parkway, Mililani, HI |
| ◆ Windward Mall - inside mall, near food court entrance | 46-056 Kamehameha Hwy., Kaneohe, HI |

BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII:

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| ◆ Ka Waena Lapa'au Medical Complex - parking lot | 670 Ponahawai Street, Hilo, HI |
| ◆ Hawaii Police Department
Kona Police Station - parking lot | 74 -0611 Hale Makai Place,
Kailua-Kona, HI |

KAUAI:

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| ◆ Kauai Police Department - parking lot | 3990 Kaana Street, Lihue, HI |
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MAUI:

- | | |
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| ◆ Maui Police Department
Kihei Police Station - parking lot | 2201 Piilani Highway,
Kihei, HI |
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For more information
visit www.dea.gov
or call (808) 541-1930.