



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DAVID M. LOUIE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2014

News Release 2014-28

Prescription Drug Take Back Events Scheduled in September

HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and State Narcotics Enforcement Division, is coordinating two prescription take back events. On September 26-28, 2014, 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 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, September 27, the Department of the Attorney General, Drug DEA, and State Narcotics Enforcement Division will be participating in DEA's 9th 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 on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 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.

Since the first Take Back event in September 2010, over 15,000 pounds of prescription drugs have been collected in Hawaii.

“We each need to be vigilant, regularly clean out medicine cabinets, and dispose of our unused and expired prescription medications in a safe and secure manner,” said Attorney General David M. Louie. “Collaboration between the community and law enforcement to securely dispose of unwanted prescription medications is crucial to prevent drug abuse and theft prescription medications.”

“The continued success of the event is attributed to the overwhelming support from the public and their understanding the dangers of misused prescription drugs,” says Howard Shu, DEA.

Keith Kamita, Administrator, Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED), Department of Public Safety, commented on the recent announcement of a change in Federal law governing the secure disposal of outdated or unwanted pharmaceutical controlled substances. He said that in 2015, NED is considering introducing legislation or adopting administrative rules that will allow public and private entities to establish secure methods of collection and destruction of prescription medication. NED is also exploring a test project that will allow drug disposal through secure drop boxes located in select in hospitals and possibly pharmacies that only NED Special Agents will be able to access.

According to the DEA and 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, prescription drugs that languish in home medicine cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high; more Americans (6.8 million) currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens like LSD, and inhalants (sniffed household products) combined. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

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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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 27, 2014
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>) |
| ◆ Town Center of Mililani - north end of mall | 95-1249 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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|---|---|
| ◆ Ponahawai 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 - parking lot | 55 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI |
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**For more information
visit www.dea.gov
or call (808) 541-1930.**