



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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For Immediate Release  
April 11, 2016

News Release 2016-18

**National Take-Back Initiative**  
**Turn In Your Unused and/or Expired Medications on April 30th**

HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General is again partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and State Narcotics Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety to coordinate a **prescription drug take-back event on Saturday, April 30, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at various collection points on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and in Hilo and Kona.**

This will be the DEA's 11th National Take-Back Initiative for the State of Hawaii. Anyone with expired or unused prescription medications is encouraged to bring their medications to the collection sites. A list of designated collection sites is attached, or you can visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or [www.ag.hawaii.gov](http://www.ag.hawaii.gov) to learn more.

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.

“Tossing pills into the trash can be dangerous. The take-backs are a great way to safely dispose of prescription drugs without harming others or the environment,” said **Attorney General Douglas Chin.**

“The DEA National Prescription Take-Back events continue to receive overwhelming participation from our communities. DEA is excited to partner with our state and local counterparts in the 11<sup>th</sup> National Take-Back Initiative. This is another great opportunity for everyone to dispose of unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs,” said **Howard Shu, Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge.**

“The DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back events are great opportunities for anyone to dispose of unwanted prescription medication in a safe, environmentally appropriate, and accountable manner. Abuse and diversion of prescribed medication continues to rise around our state and country. Simply discarding it in the trash may cause harm to our environment. All of us have the responsibility to keep our beautiful state safe for generations to come,” said **Derek Nakamura, Acting Administrator, State Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division.** “We

encourage you – our community – to join your law enforcement partners by bringing your medication to any of the collection points that will be available statewide.”

According to the DEA, thousands of Americans in communities across the country discarded more than 350 tons of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs as part of the last take-back held in the fall of 2015. “The numbers are shocking – approximately 46,000 Americans die each year from drug-related deaths. More than half of those are from heroin and prescription opioids,” said **Acting DEA Administrator Chuck Rosenberg**. “With four out of five new heroin users starting with prescription medications, I know our take-back program makes a real difference.”

In Hawaii, from 2010-2015, nearly 20,000 pounds of drugs have been safely collected and disposed of at the previous ten take-back events. Nationwide, the take-backs have collected a total of 5,525,021 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](http://www.dea.gov) or [www.ag.hawaii.gov](http://www.ag.hawaii.gov).

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Department of the Attorney General  
News Release 2016-18  
Page 3

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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, April 30, 2016  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

## OAHU:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ♦ 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:

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

## KAUAI:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| ♦ Kauai Police Department - parking lot | 3990 Kaana Street, Lihue, HI |
|---|------------------------------|

## MAUI:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ♦ Maui Police Department - parking lot | 55 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI |
|--|---------------------------------|



**For more information  
visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)  
or call (808) 541-1930.**