



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**HAWAII DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Mark Bennett, Narcotics Enforcement Division Administrator Keith Kamita, and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special-Agent-in-Charge Robin Dinlocker today announced the launch of the Hawai'i Drug Take-Back Program.

This program is part of the first-ever nationwide take-back initiative to address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse and the danger of accidental poisoning.

Starting on September 25, 2010, Hawaii residents can turn in unused, unneeded, or expired prescription medications at collection sites across Hawaii. A list of collection dates and locations is attached.

This service is free and anonymous – no questions asked.

Tablets, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms will be accepted.

Intravenous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted.

The drugs will be incinerated according to federal and state environmental guidelines.

"Unused or expired prescription drugs pose serious health and safety risks," Bennett said. "This program gives Hawaii residents an opportunity to help protect their families and community by disposing of unused medicine safely and anonymously."

"Americans are abusing prescription drugs at record levels," Dinlocker said. "You can strengthen your community and make your home safe by participating."

"Across the nation and here in Hawaii, pharmaceutical controlled substances are quickly becoming the second most abused drugs in our schools after marijuana," Kamita said. "Most teens obtain these drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets or from friends."

**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 prescription drug abuse.**

- In 2008, 6.2 million Americans aged 12 years or older abused prescription drugs – more than the total number of Americans abusing cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants combined.
- Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends – including from home medicine cabinets.

**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 where others can find it.**

- Proper disposal helps reduce the risk of prescription drugs being used inappropriately.

**Unused or expired medicine should not be flushed down the toilet unless the label says it is flushable.**

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

This program is a partnership of:

- Department of the Attorney General
- Narcotics Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- Hawai'i Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)
- Hawai'i High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
- Hawai'i National Guard
- Longs Drugs
- Molokai Drugs

For more information, please visit [www.hawaii.gov/ag](http://www.hawaii.gov/ag) or call 837-8470.

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# HAWAII DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

## 2010 Collection Dates and Locations

### OAHU

**Saturday, September 25**

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Moiliili  
2220 South King Street  
Honolulu HI 96826

**Saturday, October 9**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Kaneohe Bay Shopping Center  
46-047 Kaneohe Bay Drive  
Kaneohe HI 96744

**Saturday, October 23**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Manana  
1130 Kuala Street  
Pearl City HI 96782

**Saturday, November 6**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Waianae Mall Shopping Center  
86-120 Farrington Highway  
Waianae HI 96792

### HAWAII

**Saturday, November 20**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Prince Kuhio Hilo  
Prince Kuhio Plaza  
111 East Puainako Street

**Saturday, December 11**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Lanihau Kona  
75-5595 Palani Road  
Kailua-Kona HI 96740

### KAUAI

**Saturday, October 2**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Lihue  
3-2600 Kaunualii Highway #1  
Lihue HI 96766

**Saturday, November 13**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Kapaa  
4-831 Kuhio Highway, Suite 500  
Kapaa HI 96746

### MAUI

**Saturday, October 16**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Kahului  
Maui Mall  
70 East Kaahumanu Avenue  
Kahului HI 96732

**Saturday, December 4**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Longs Drugs Lahaina  
1221 Honoapilani Highway  
Lahaina HI 96761

### MOLOKAI

**Tuesday, September 28**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Molokai Drugs  
28 Kamo'i Street, Suite 100  
Kaunakakai HI 96748