

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

#### **News Release**

#### NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

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News Release 2012-23

#### 5<sup>th</sup> National (Prescription Drug) Take Back Initiative

HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and State Narcotics Enforcement Division, is coordinating its 5<sup>th</sup> National Take Back Initiative on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii. Residents who have expired or unused prescription medications are encouraged to bring in their medications on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at various collections points. A list of collection locations is attached or visit www.dea.gov.

The 5<sup>th</sup> National Take Back Initiative will also have an exhibit Take Back day booth (#540) at the Hawaii Senior's Fair at the Blaisdell Center from September 28 - 30, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This service is free and anonymous – no questions asked. Tablet, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms will be accepted.

Since September 2010, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands have collected a total of nearly 6,700 pounds of expired and unused prescription medications. With each Take Back effort, the number of pounds collected has increased. On the most recent Take Back day, citizens turned in a record-breaking 552,161 pounds (276 tons) of medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,659 Take Back sites available in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

According to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the number of young adults (people aged 18-25) who used prescription drugs for non-medical purposes in the past month declined 14 percent – from 2 million in 2010 to 1.7 million in 2011. This decline has driven an overall 12 percent drop in the number of Americans abusing prescription drugs. Complete survey findings can be found at www.samhsa.gov.

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

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

This effort is a partnership of the Department of the Attorney General, the DEA, and the Narcotics Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety.

For more information, please visit www.hawaii.gov/ag, www.justice.gov/dea, and www.hawaii.gov/psd.

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# **National TAKE BACK** Initiative (NTBI)

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

## Saturday, September 29 10:00-2:00 p.m.

#### OAHU:

- Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI
- Kapolei Police Station parking lot 1100 Kamokila Blvd., Kapolei, HI
- Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) main lobby 4725 Bouganville Dr., Honolulu, HI
- Schofield Barracks Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Post Exchange (PX) - inside near flower shop Schofield Barracks, HI (Must have base access)
- Town Center of Mililani bandstand area 95-1249 Meheula Parkway, Mililani, HI
- Windward Mall center court area 46-056 Kamehameha Highway, Kaneohe, HI
- Plus 3 days to drop-off medication disposal! Hawaii Senior's Fair - Blaisdell Center booth #540 September 28 - 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII:**

- Army Aviation Support Facility
   adjacent to Civil Air Patrol
  1095 Kekuanaoa St., Hilo, HI
- Hawaii County Police Department Kona Police Station - parking lot 75-5221 Queen Kaahumanu Highway, Kailua-Kona, HI

#### KAUAI:

WICE DAILY AS

 Kauai Police Department - parking lot 3990 Kaana St., Lihue, HI

#### MAUI:

 Maui County Police Department - parking lot 55 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI

#### For more information visit: www.dea.gov or call (808) 541-1930







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#### **GUAM:**

Agana Shopping Center - first floor rotunda Route 4, O'Brien Drive, Hagatna, Guam

Micronesia Mall - *center court* 1088 West Marine Corps Drive, Dededo, Guam

Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) - Base Exchange (BX), Yigo, Guam

Naval Base (NB) Guam - Navy Exchange (NEX) - food court, Piti, Guam

**ROTA:** Rota Health Center, Songsong Village, Rota

SAIPAN: Horiguchi Federal Building - *parking lot* Garapan Village Beach Road, Saipan MP

**TINIAN:** Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian

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