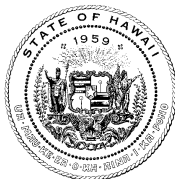


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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News Release 2013-7

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 6th Annual 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 collection site on Saturday, April 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A list of collection sites is attached or visit www.dea.gov.

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

This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events or who have accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs to safely dispose of those medications.

Since September 2010, Hawaii together with Guam and Northern Marianas Islands has collected a little over 8,000 pounds of expired and unused prescription medications. On the most recent national Take-Back day on September 29, 2012, 488,395 pounds (244 tons) of prescription medication were turned in at the 5,263 Take-Back sites available in all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

According to the Hawaii Youth Risk Behaviors, Hawaii School Health Survey, a joint project by the Departments of Health and Education and University of Hawaii's Curriculum Research & Development Group, 14.3% of high school students took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription.

People over age 65 are also at risk for prescription drug abuse – and perhaps even more so. Americans age 65 and older make up 13% of the population but consume about one-third of all prescription drugs. This group also takes more potentially addictive medication than any other age group. Two types of prescription drugs with the potential for addiction by seniors are opioid pain relievers and benzodiazepines.

The Take-Back Initiatives are an important and needed effort to prevent unused and expired medications from being abused. It provides a vehicle for people to freely dispose of their medications in a safe and anonymous way.

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.

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

For more information, please visit www.dea.gov.

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For more information, contact:

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National TAKE-BACK Initiative (NTBI)

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



Saturday, April 27, 2013
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

OAHU:

◆ Hawaii State Capitol	415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI
◆ Kahala Mall - <i>inside mall; Kilauea Avenue end</i>	4211 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, HI
◆ Kapolei Police Station	1100 Kamokila Boulevard, Kapolei, HI
◆ Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) - <i>front of Exchange</i>	Kaneohe Bay, HI (<i>Must have base access</i>)
◆ Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) - <i>main lobby</i>	4725 Bouganville Drive, Honolulu, HI
◆ Schofield Barracks Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Post Exchange (PX) - <i>inside near flower shop</i>	Schofield Barracks, HI (<i>Must have base access</i>)
◆ Town Center of Mililani - <i>bandstand area</i>	95-1249 Meheula Parkway, Mililani, HI
◆ Windward Mall - <i>inside mall; Haiku Road end</i>	46-056 Kamehameha Hwy., Kaneohe, HI

BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII:

◆ Army Aviation Support Facility - <i>adjacent to Civil Air Patrol</i>	1095 Kekuanaoa Street, Hilo, HI
◆ Hawaii Police Department Kona Police Station - <i>parking lot</i>	75-5221 Queen Kaahumanu Highway, Kailua-Kona, HI

KAUAI:

◆ Kauai Police Department - <i>parking lot</i>	3990 Kaana Street, Lihue, HI
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MAUI:

◆ Maui Police Department - <i>parking lot</i>	55 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI
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**For more information
visit www.dea.gov
or call (808) 541-1930.**