



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**DAVID M. LOUIE**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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News Release 2014-14

**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 the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 26, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A list of collection sites is attached or visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or [www.ag.hawaii.gov](http://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.

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.

Take-Back Days are needed because current federal laws do not provide a way for patients, caregivers, and pet owners to dispose of such controlled substance medications such as painkillers, sedatives, tranquilizers, and stimulants like ADHD drugs.

Last year, Hawaii collected 4,507 pounds of prescription medications at various collection points on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

-More-

Attorney General David Louie states, "It is encouraging to see the public continue to participate in these take backs to rid their medicine cabinets of prescription medications. Both the community and law enforcement need to work together to prevent drug abuse and theft by disposing of unwanted prescription medications."

Robin Dinlocker, DEA Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, adds, "DEA is once again honored to be working with our Federal, state, local and community partners on the 8<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take Back event. It is due to the cooperation between the community and the law enforcement partners that has made this a continuing successful event in combating prescription drug abuse and misuse in the Hawaiian Islands."

Keith Kamita, Chief Special Agent, Narcotics Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety, goes on to say that "in Hawaii, pharmaceutical controlled substances have become a huge problem with our youth. They underestimate the dangers of these types of controlled substances stating 'how can it hurt me? It's prescribed by doctors.' These substances are as strong as or stronger than street drugs and easily obtained from medicine cabinets at home. Hawaii's participation in the Take Back Initiative helps eliminate these life-threatening hazards by safely destroying old, outdated and unwanted substances, possibly saving the life of one of our kids."

**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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# 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 26, 2014  
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> ) |
| ◆ 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:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ◆ Ponahawai Medical Complex - 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 |
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**For more information  
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or call (808) 541-1930.**