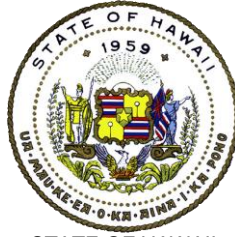


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn H. Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 303
RELATING TO HEALTH

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 1:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Chairs Green and Espero, Vice Chairs Wakai and Baker, and Members of the Committee:

Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 303 which proposes to establish the Hawaii Drug Take-Back and Education Initiative to coordinate and increase the safe return and disposal of prescription drugs and the Narcotics Enforcement and Prescription Drug Monitoring Advisory Committee within the Department of Health, whose purpose would be to advise the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED).

Both the Electronic Prescription Monitoring program and the Drug Take-Back program reside within PSD's Narcotics Enforcement Division. It may be advisable, therefore, to establish the oversight committee within the Department of Public Safety.

The NED has run a pharmaceutical controlled substance practitioner take-back program for over three decades and in 2010 started an unfunded program of scheduled events, allowing the public to turn in their unwanted prescription (controlled and non-controlled) drugs to the NED for disposal. The NED has conducted these take-back

events partnering with Federal, State, County and community partners on a quarterly basis. However funding for the disposal and staffing overtime for weekend events has taken up resources from NED's budget. With the federal Drug Enforcement Agency discontinuing their semiannual take-back events in 2014 and the change in the law to allow pharmacies to accept pharmaceutical take-back drugs, with the costs usually passed on to the patient, the NED has continued its pharmaceutical drug take-back events as a community service and in keeping with its mandated functions to guard against the possibility of theft, diversion and the recycling of these returned medications which could do harm to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB303 RELATING TO HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH: Senator Josh Green M.D., Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS:
Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

- Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 1:45 p.m.
- Conference Room 414

HSAC Supports SB303:

Good Morning Chair Green; Chair Espero; Vice Chair Wakai; Vice Chair Baker; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than thirty treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports the Hawaii drug take-back and education initiative to coordinate and increase the safe return and disposal of drugs and the narcotics enforcement and prescription drug monitoring advisory committee to advise the department of public safety narcotics enforcement division.

The Narcotic Policy Work Group met for almost a year to review the research and prepare the recommendations for this bill.

The Narcotic Policy Work Group, led by Dr. Miscovitch and Senator Green, is comprised of:

- Several physicians, including pain management specialists
- Chief Medical representatives from various hospitals,
- Representative from Public Safety: Narcotic's Division (NDEA),
- Representative from the Director of the Department of Health,
- Representative from Hawaii Medical Association,
- Representative from Hospice Hawaii.
- Representative from Substance Abuse Treatment,
- Representative from University of Hawaii JBSOM
- Judge Alm from Project HOPE,
- Representatives from pharmacists,
- Representatives from HMSA,
- Representative from Kaiser,
- Representatives from the Veterans Administration.

Working together, we can improve outcomes and reduce costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: kglick@wheelchair-kauai.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB303 on Feb 11, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 6:51:17 PM

SB303

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HTH/PSM on Feb 11, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Glick	Hawaii Community Pharmacists Association	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Community Pharmacists Association supports SB-303 and urges its passage out of committee. By enacting this legislation the State of Hawaii will take a substantial step forward in the management of medications utilized for pain control by those patients in need. The establishment of a advisory committee there will be increased participation by providers across the medical spectrum.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Comments of
Gary M. Slovin/ Mihoko E. Ito
on behalf of
Walgreens**

DATE: February 10, 2015

TO: Senator Josh Green
Chair, Committee on Health

Senator Will Espero
Chair, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Submitted Via HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **S.B. 303 – Relating to Health**
Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room: 414

Dear Chair Josh Green, Chair Espero and Members of the Joint Committees,

We submit these comments on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates more than 8,200 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In Hawai`i, Walgreens now has 20 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui and Hawai`i.

Walgreens **supports** S.B. 303, which establishes the Hawaii drug take-back and education initiative to coordinate and increase the safe return and disposal of drugs and the narcotics enforcement and prescription drug monitoring advisory committee to advise the department of public safety narcotics enforcement division.

Walgreens believes that this measure, which is partly aimed at educating the public regarding the safe disposal and return of prescription drugs, will make a positive impact in the public awareness of how to dispose of prescription drugs. Walgreens also notes that the bill proposes the formation of a narcotics enforcement and prescription drug monitoring advisory committee. The Committee will be helpful in monitoring statewide

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima

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(808) 539-0840

statistics regarding prescription drugs, and providing recommendations regarding education programs that provide training to practitioners regarding pain management and safe prescribing. These types of educational programs will help address issues of patient misuse or abuse of prescription drugs, and safe prescribing protocols for prescription drugs.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ostrowsk@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB303 on Feb 11, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 7:39:12 AM

SB303

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HTH/PSM on Feb 11, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean O	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As caregivers to a loved one who recently passed away, we are now faced with disposing of all of her medications safely. We need a system in place to safely return these medications instead of being told to dispose of them in our household trash.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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My mother-in-law just passed away after a lengthy terminal illness and now I'm left with trying to dispose of more than one type of Schedule II drugs and other medications, including pre-filled syringes. The pharmacy will not take them back and there is no take back program available. We need this to pass!

I became a full time caregiver to my mother-in-law two and a half years ago. She was on a long list of medications, including a daily injectable blood thinner. In her home state of Wisconsin, the pharmacy sold the larger sharps containers and then you could return the filled container to the pharmacy for a small fee and they safely disposed of the container. That program is not available here and we were told by the pharmacy that the official response listed from the *Safe Syringe Disposal* options from the State of Hawaii says to "purchase a sharps container at a pharmacy or put used syringes and needles in a plastic bottle, label it biohazard and dispose of the bottle with your household trash." The pharmacy doesn't even sell the sharps containers with the larger opening that will accommodate the syringes we have so we were told that most people just use empty laundry soap containers.

I didn't feel good about throwing these in our household trash even if they were in a plastic container. I tried taking them to our local health provider and they did not want me to dispose of them in their biohazard waste container because let's face it, it's not safe practice to be carrying these used syringes around with you. The only place on the island that has syringe waste containers available for personal use is in the bathrooms at the VA, which isn't meant, nor is it practical, to be disposing of large quantities of used syringes in this way. We need a place to safely return all prescription drugs and a place to properly dispose of used syringes.

Almost 8 months ago she received a terminal diagnosis, was put on hospice care at home and was immediately taken off injectable blood thinners and prescribed several schedule II drugs. She passed away in January and I am still trying to dispose of all of her left over medications. I'm told the best way is to let them dissolve in coffee grounds and throw them in the household trash. The medication filled syringes are just to be placed in the empty laundry soap containers and placed in my trash.

We have a list of schedule II drugs, they are each assigned a controlled substance code number, and you have to show your license to pick up the drug at the local pharmacy. If it's this important, why isn't there any safe return method for unused drugs and syringes? This is especially important to caregivers who have signed for these drugs and those of us with an environmental concern about disposing of these things in our household trash to then just be taken to a landfill and possibly end up in our water supply. Please pass this measure, for the sake of our people and our aina.