



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2391 HD 1
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: March 1, 2018

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) **strongly supports** HB 2391 HD 1
3 and its companion SB 2818. These bills support and enhance the coordinated efforts undertaken
4 by the Department of Public Safety (PSD), Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) and the
5 DOH to implement a balanced and coordinated public safety/public health strategy to address
6 opioid and other substance abuse issues in our state. The bills allow the NED administrator to
7 disclose, at his discretion, confidential information from the Electronic Prescription
8 Accountability System, more commonly known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
9 (PDMP), to authorized employees of the DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) and
10 the Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch (EMSIPSB).

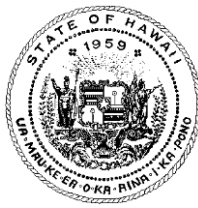
11 The PDMP is a unique resource that provides a picture of health care opioid prescribing
12 and pharmacy dispensing practices and patterns in Hawaii. Increased access to the prescription
13 database will greatly inform the DOH's Strategic Plan for preventing opioid addiction and
14 overdose.

15 More than 150 Hawaii residents die from drug overdoses each year. Nearly half of these
16 deaths involve prescription opioids. Fatal drug overdose is now the leading cause of injury-
17 related deaths in the state, surpassing those from motor vehicle crashes and falls. Prevention and
18 treatment of this problem are top priorities for the Governor. The Hawaii Opioid and Substance
19 Misuse Initiative (Initiative) brought together a wide range of legislators, state and county
20 officials, law enforcement and first responders, health care professionals and other citizens to

1 work together to develop and implement a plan to reduce prescription opioid abuse and deaths
2 from overdose. HB 2391 HD 1 is intended to fulfill Objective 3-1 of the Hawaii Opioid Action
3 Plan (Plan) developed by the Initiative. The full Plan is available at:
4 <https://health.hawaii.gov/substance-abuse/files/2013/05/The-Hawaii-Opioid-Initiative.pdf>.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2391, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 1, 2018; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (SB) 2391, House Draft (HD) 1, which proposes to amend chapter 329-104(c) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow the PSD Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) Administrator to disclose, at his/her discretion, confidential information from the Electronic Prescription Accountability System, more commonly known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), to authorized employees of the Department of Health (DOH) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division and the Emergency Medical and Injury Prevention Systems Branch.

PSD has collaborated closely with DOH and other government and private stakeholders to create Hawai'i's "Opioid Action Plan." As part of this action plan, stakeholders agreed that PDMP information sharing between PSD and DOH would provide DOH with information to better protect the community by allowing public health surveillance and decreasing harm reduction. Also, the Opioid Action Plan calls for a balanced approach involving effective treatment, prevention, and law enforcement to combat opioid abuse in Hawai'i. The sharing of data between law

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enforcement and public health officials, as proposed in HB 2391, HD 1 exemplifies this approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HB-2391-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:31:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Bergquist	Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: