

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2531
RELATING TO HEALTH

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 6, 2018; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

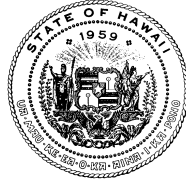
Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 2531, which would require prescribers of certain controlled substances to consult the electronic prescription monitoring accountability system before issuing a prescription for a controlled substance. PSD offers the following comments.

First, PSD has collaborated closely with the Department of Health (DOH) and other government and private stakeholders to create Hawai'i's Opioid Action Plan. One of the plan's goals is to increase the number of practitioners who use the electronic prescription accountability system, otherwise known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). PSD supports HB 2531, as this would significantly increase the number of PDMP users.

Second, PSD is aware of several states that have mandated use of the PDMP before the prescription of controlled substances. According to information from the DOH, 36 states currently have laws in place requiring the use of the PDMP. Those states have significantly reduced the effects of opioids.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2531
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 6, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this bill to
3 require prescribers to use the electronic prescription accountability system also known as the
4 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program of the Department of Public Safety (PSD) before writing
5 prescriptions for narcotics.

6 This measure aligns with the following prescriber education and pain management
7 practice objectives of the Hawaii Opioid Action Plan, developed by the Governor's Opioid and
8 Substance Misuse Initiative:

- 9 • Objective 2-1: By December 2018, increase primary care provider PMP registration rates
10 by twenty-five percent by providing training to prescribers;
- 11 • Objective 2-1a: By December 2018, increase prescriber PMP utilization rates by ten
12 percent; and
- 13 • Objective 3-2: By September 2018, develop a standardized framework for the collection,
14 synthesis, and dissemination of data.

15 The DOH is aware that while mandates are less preferable to voluntary compliance, this
16 measure will achieve nonetheless the results of Objectives 2-1 and 2-1a noted above.

17 The DOH also defers to the PSD on the regulation and implementation of the proposed
18 amendments to the Hawaii Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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TO:
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2018
TIME: 8:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Government and Community Relations

Re: HB 2531 RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Position: OPPOSE

Chairs & Committee Members:

As we have testified and confirmed on numerous occasions, any violation of Section 329 is a felony charge, which would result in a physician losing their license.

This bill would make it a career-ending event for a physician to forget to check the PDMP for literally every single narcotic prescription that they write.

While we encourage the use of PDMP, and supported mandatory registration with the system for all providers with controlled substance prescriptive authority, we do not believe it is necessary to have to check it for every single prescription.

The passage of this bill would encourage providers to not even register for the ability to prescribe controlled substances, which would severely limit access to needed care.

Given that Hawaii is currently one of the least viable places in the nation to practice medicine, we can only imagine what such a heavy-handed approach, as outlined in this bill, would do to our existing physician shortage.

HMA OFFICERS

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February 6, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: HB 2531 – Relating to Prescription Drugs

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2531, which requires prescribers of certain controlled substances to consult the electronic prescription accountability system before issuing a prescription for the controlled substance. HMSA supports the intent of this Bill, to reduce the access of the public to potentially addictive substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2531.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice-President, Government Relations