

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

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2631
RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY
SYSTEM

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

Friday, February 9, 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) appreciates the intent of House Bill (HB) 2631, which would enhance the electronic prescription accountability system to inform prescribers of the percentile ranking of their opiate prescription practices as compared to their peers. PSD offers the following comments.

First, the Department notes that HB 2631 would require PSD's Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) to annually determine the mean and median quantity and the volume of prescriptions for opiates contained in Schedule II and Schedule III, as defined by the HRS. Furthermore, HB 2631 requires that the mean and median quantities be determined within categories of practitioners of a similar specialty or practice type as determined by the Department. PSD contracts with a vendor to operate Hawaii's electronic prescription accountability system, commonly known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). According to our vendor, to meet the requirements proposed by HB 2631, our PDMP system would have to be enhanced at the cost of tens of thousands of dollars.

Second, in addition to these burdensome, recurring costs for which no appropriation has been made, it would be difficult for NED to report the data required by HB 2631 with regard to “practitioners of a similar specialty or practice type.” In NED’s experience, practitioners have wide discretion in how they self-identify their field of practice. For example, a psychiatrist by training might identify his/her practice as “pain management”, while a similarly trained psychiatrist with a similar practice might self-identify his/her practice as “clinical psychiatry.” Furthermore, NED does not collect data to identify a prescriber’s specialty or practice type. Instead, NED requires only that prescribers hold a professional vocational license in a field that has statutory prescriptive authority to prescribe controlled substances. Collection of this data would require enhancements to NED’s controlled substances registration system at additional cost, and would take at least a year to complete based on the annual controlled substances registration cycle.

Third, HB 2631 requires that PSD NED coordinate with the respective boards of licensure to make resources available to prescribers regarding ways to change prescribing practices and incorporate alternate pain management options into a prescriber’s practice. PSD has been working closely and collaboratively with the Department of Health and other government and private stakeholders to assist with improvements and advancements in this area. These improvements and advancements are included in Hawaii’s Opioid Action Plan that was published in late 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2631

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 3:54:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2631

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 10:16:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mari Green		Support	No

Comments: