

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2818
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 6, 2018; 12:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chairs Baker and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

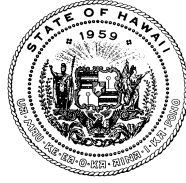
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 2818, which proposes to amend chapter 329-104(c) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow the PSD Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) Administrator to disclose, at his/her discretion, confidential information from the Electronic 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

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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 enforcement and public health officials, as proposed in SB 2818, exemplifies this approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2818
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 6, 2018

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

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

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1 treatment of this problem are top priorities for the Governor. The Hawaii Opioid and Substance
2 Misuse Initiative (Initiative) brought together a wide range of legislators, state and county
3 officials, law enforcement and first responders, health care professionals and other citizens to
4 work together to develop and implement a plan to reduce prescription opioid abuse and deaths
5 from overdose. S.B. 2818 is intended to fulfill Objective 3-1 of the Hawaii Opioid Action Plan
6 (Plan) developed by the Initiative. The full Plan is available at:
7 <https://health.hawaii.gov/substance-abuse/files/2013/05/The-Hawaii-Opioid-Initiative.pdf>.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2818

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:23:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2018 12:45:00 PM

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

Comments: