



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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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



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

Comments: