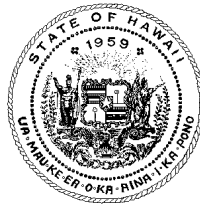


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1486  
RELATING TO ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

By  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

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

Tuesday, February 5, 2019; 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 1486, 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.

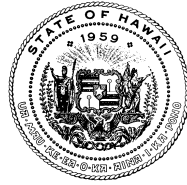
PSD supports this bill, but would request that page 3, line 5 be amended to read "authorized employees of the State of Hawaii department of health." This would provide clarity for information sharing with our State's department of health and tracks the wording in SB 1265, which is the administration's bill to amend chapter 329-104(c), HRS, as specified above.

PSD has collaborated closely with DOH and other government and private stakeholders to create Hawai'i's "Opioid Action Plan." As part of this

Testimony on SB 1486  
Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
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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 decreased harm. 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 1486, exemplifies this approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of (SB 1486)**  
**RELATING TO ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

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

Hearing Date: February 5, 2019      Room Number: 229

1    **Fiscal Implications:** None

2    **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) **strongly supports** SB 1486 and its  
3    companion SB 1313. These bills support and enhance the coordinated efforts undertaken by the  
4    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  
18    treatment of this problem are top priorities for the Governor. The Hawaii Opioid Initiative  
19    brought together a wide range of legislators, state and county officials, law enforcement and first

1 responders, health care professionals and other citizens to work together to develop and  
2 implement a plan to reduce prescription opioid abuse and deaths from overdose. SB 1486 is  
3 intended to fulfill one of the objectives of the Hawaii Opioid Action Plan (Plan) developed by  
4 the Hawaii Opioid Initiative. The full revised Plan (January 2019) is available at:  
5 [https://health.hawaii.gov/substance-abuse/files/2019/01/The-Hawaii-Opioid-Initiative\\_2.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/substance-abuse/files/2019/01/The-Hawaii-Opioid-Initiative_2.pdf).

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.