

**Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Thursday, March 12, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Capitol Auditorium**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 2919, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC  
PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board supports this bill.

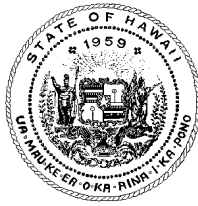
The purpose of this bill is to require that the dispensing of a pharmacist-prescribed opioid antagonist be reported to the State's electronic prescription accountability system.

Act 154, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, authorized pharmacists to prescribe and dispense an opioid antagonist. This was one of many initiatives of the Hawaii Opioid Task Force to address opioid overdoses by increasing access to opioid antagonists. In addition, Act 255, SLH 2019, authorized a pharmacist, acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care, to prescribe and dispense an opioid antagonist to patients, family members, and caregivers of opioid patients at risk of overdose.

The Board believes that the data collected by the electronic prescription accountability system will assist the Hawaii Opioid Task Force in addressing the opioid epidemic in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2919, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

by  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

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

Thursday, March 12, 2020; 9:00 a.m.  
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Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Bill 2919, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which proposes to amend sections 329-101(b) and (d) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require that the dispensing of a pharmacist-prescribed opioid antagonists be reported to the State's Electronic Prescription Accountability System (EPAS), more commonly known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). This measure aligns with the goals of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative.

In 2019, the Legislature passed Act 255, which allows pharmacists to issue prescriptions for opioid-antagonists, thereby increasing access to these lifesaving drugs. SB 2919, SD 1 would require pharmacists to report opioid antagonist prescriptions to the PDMP using procedures that are very familiar to them. Such a reporting requirement would not substantially add to a pharmacist's workload and would allow State Department of Health (DOH) epidemiologists, who already have access to the PDMP, to efficiently measure the effectiveness of Act 255. This measure would provide DOH with additional data useful to prevent opioid overdose.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.