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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2423**  
**RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 2/25/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this initiative by the Department of Public  
3 Safety to increase Hawaii's public health surveillance capacity by amending HRS §329-104 to  
4 allow prescribers, dispensers and pharmacists at Hawaii Veteran's Administration (VA) facilities  
5 and authorized employees of the Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD)  
6 to access information stored in the electronic prescription accountability system (EPAS).

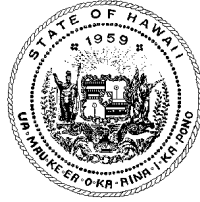
7 The Legislature passed SB1486 CD1 (later Act 230 SLH 2019) which allowed authorized  
8 employees of ADAD and the Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch to use  
9 the EPAS for public health surveillance. Act 230 SLH 2019 fulfilled one of the early objectives  
10 of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative.

11 Expanded VA prescriber usage will elevate the EPAS to a "mainstream" surveillance tool and  
12 provide more opportunities for prescriber education and boost system user and registration rates.  
13 Allowing MQD to use the EPAS for surveillance provides additional checks and balances to  
14 ensure appropriate billing for services and appropriate prescribing and treatment access for  
15 Medicaid members.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2423  
RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.  
by  
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Friday, February 25, 2022; 9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2423, which updates Section 329-104(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to clarify who may access information stored in the electronic prescription accountability system (EPAS), more commonly known as the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The measure's close alignment with the goals of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative is the key reason for PSD's support of SB 2423.

The bill clarifies that an advance practice registered nurse (APRN) has the authority to access information stored on the PDMP. In certain situations, APRNs are already mandated to use the PDMP when they prescribe controlled substances.

In addition, SB 2423 clarifies that a pharmacist may access the PDMP to check for information regarding a customer being served. Currently, pharmacists may query a customer's record in the PDMP only when they suspect the occurrence of a violation of law. Enabling a pharmacist to check the PDMP before dispensing a controlled substance reinforces the importance of this best practice for every pharmacist.

Moreover, SB 2423 would allow authorized employees of the Med-Quest Program, State Department of Human Services, which manages the federal Medicaid Program in Hawaii, to access information in the PDMP. Allowing authorized Med-Quest staff to access the PDMP provides additional checks and balances to ensure appropriate billing for services, appropriate prescribing, and treatment access for Medicaid members. Further, enabling access for Med-Quest staff will facilitate the agency's support of the federal Medicaid Program's new efforts to combat the nationwide opioid program, working cooperatively with PSD.

Finally, SB 2423 would allow certain Hawaii providers within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to receive information from the PDMP to comply with the federal law requiring the State to share PDMP information with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.