

 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES[®]
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Hawai'i, August - December 2022

While it took fentanyl longer to arrive in Hawai'i than it did on the mainland, it has been in Hawai'i for several years. Counterfeit pills made with fentanyl first appeared in 2018 and have been found on the islands frequently in the second half of 2022. Police arrested a Hilo pair in August who had allegedly been working with a Mexican national to bring fentanyl pills onto the Big Island. Another resident of the Big Island appeared in federal court in September to face charges of shipping fentanyl pills from Fresno, California to Keaau.

In October, a 15-year-old student at Kealakehe High School known only as "G" died after being poisoned by fentanyl. According to her mother, Kym, "G" ordered the deadly pill on Instagram and received it in the mail. "I'm convinced it was her first time, and I'm convinced it was one pill," Kym said.

Counterfeit medicine can also make its way to patients from legitimate sources. Between 2012 and 2017, seven doctors in Hawai'i received letters from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warning them to stop purchasing medications such as cancer treatments and Botox from known black market wholesalers.

Recent Incidents

December 2022:

Guilty Plea in Fentanyl Pill Case: Peter Boylan, "[Man Enters Guilty Pleas in California-to-Hawaii Drug Case](#)," *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, December 23, 2022.

November 2022:

Guilty Plea in Fentanyl Pill Case: "[Los Angeles Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Charges for Stealing Nearly \\$5.5 Million in COVID Jobless Relief and for Drug Trafficking](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, November 14, 2022.

October 2022:

Death in Kailua: Grant Phillips, "[Hawaii Health Experts Work to Curb Fentanyl Deaths Among Younger People](#)," *Hawaii Herald Tribune*, January 3, 2023.

September 2022:

Fentanyl Pill Seized: "[10-19-22 Police Offer Tips on What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know About Illicit Fentanyl](#)," Hawai'i Police Department, October 19, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedr ug/HI-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Hawai'i.



 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES®
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Fentanyl Pill Dealer Charged: Peter Boylan, "[Keaau Man Who Allegedly Shipped Fentanyl Pills to Hawaii Released on Bail](#)," *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, October 5, 2022.

Fentanyl Pill Seized: Tiffany DeMasters, "[Hawai'i Police Confirm Suspected Fentanyl Bust in Kona](#)," *Big Island Now*, September 28, 2022.

August 2022:

Fentanyl Pill Dealers Charged: Peter Boylan, "[Hilo Pair Allegedly Worked Mexican Connection to Ship Meth and Fentanyl to Hawaii](#)," *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, August 17, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedr.ug/HI-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Hawai'i.

