

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Designation of "Authorized Objects" Approved
for Distribution by the Syringe Exchange Program
September 2025

Pursuant to Act 106, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025, the Department of Health authorizes the following objects, in addition to sterile needles and syringes, for distribution by the syringe exchange program, to syringe exchange participants, for the purpose of reducing infection and injury related to injection drug use.

The syringe exchange program is permitted to distribute "authorized objects" even though such objects may be considered drug paraphernalia under section 329-43.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Possession or delivery of authorized objects shall not constitute an offense under section 329-43.5 for program staff acting in the course and scope of official duties; provided that delivery is limited to other program staff or to syringe exchange participants pursuant to this part. Possession of authorized objects shall not constitute an offense under section 329-43.5 for syringe exchange participants participating in a program visit. The department shall establish a specific list of authorized objects, which may be updated from time to time as needed. (Section 4, Act 106 SLH 2025, to be codified under section 325-114(b), HRS.)

Authorized Objects	
Object	Rationale
<u>Cookers</u> A container used for heating and mixing drugs for injection.	Single-use cookers reduce exposure to contaminants, including infectious agents. Contaminants, including infectious agents, can be introduced by heating or mixing drugs in a non-sterile household item such as a spoon or bottle cap, or by sharing or reuse of any container in which drugs for injection are heated or mixed.
<u>Filters</u> A material used to remove contaminants and undissolved particles from a drug-containing solution as it is drawn into a syringe. A filter	Use of an appropriate filter removes solid materials and impurities that may otherwise cause soft tissue and vein injury, emboli, or infections. Injecting without

may be a pellet of cotton or similar material, sometimes referred to as “cottons” or cotton filters, or a single-use device containing a filter membrane.	using a filter or use of common inappropriate filter materials, such as a cigarette filter, can introduce contaminants and undissolved particles. Sharing or reuse of filtering material can introduce contaminants, including infectious agents.
<u>Foil</u> A small square or rectangular sheet of aluminum foil used as a cooker for heating and mixing drugs for injection. These are sheets of aluminum foil that are manufactured for drug use; they are heavier than and do not have oil or other coating common on household foil. Some syringe exchange participants prefer foil to other types of cookers.	Disposable foil, in place of a cooker, reduces exposure to contaminants, including infectious agents. Contaminants, including infectious agents, can be introduced by heating or mixing drugs in a non-sterile household item such as a spoon or bottle cap or by sharing or reuse of any container in which drugs for injection are heated or mixed. Using foil intended for drug use in place of household foil reduces harm because when heating drugs on household foil, coating on the foils can burn and release chemicals that can be harmful to inhale.
<u>Sharps disposal containers</u> A container specifically designed to store used needles, syringes, and other sharp medical instruments until the container and its contents can be safely and properly discarded. Sharps containers are puncture and leak resistant, fitted with a closed puncture-resistant lid, and clearly labeled with a hazard warning.	Use of a sharps disposal container can reduce needle-stick injuries and the spread of bloodborne pathogens. Improper disposal and storage of used syringes and needles outside of a sharps disposal container increase the risk of needle stick injuries to both syringes exchange program participants and other members of the public.
<u>Sterile water</u> Sterile water, labeled “for injection” and packaged in single-use ampoules may be used in the preparation of drugs for injection.	Use of sterile water can prevent bacterial infections associate with non-sterile injection.
<u>Tourniquets</u> A strip of rubber or other elastic material tightened around a limb to dilate veins to assist in correct placement of a hypodermic needle. Sometimes referred to as “ties.”	Contaminants including infectious agents can be introduced through sharing or reuse of a tourniquet; use of a tourniquet can reduce soft tissue injuries that may result from repeated unsuccessful attempts to place a needle into a vein.

The Department of Health shall review the list of authorized objects at least annually and may add or remove items in response to changing conditions or new information about the potential

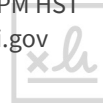
for items used in conjunction with injection drug use to increase or decrease the risk of infection
or injury.

This list of authorized objects shall be effective as of the date of signature below.

Kenneth Fink
Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH
Director of Health

Kenneth Fink

E-signed 2025-09-10 12:20PM HST
Kenneth.Fink@doh.hawaii.gov
STATE OF HAWAII ETS



09/10/2025
Date