

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

900

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 28 2025**

RE: S.B. No. 1245  
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which  
was referred S.B. No. 1245, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to mandate  
reimbursement for services provided by pharmacists within their  
scope of practice by private and public health plans issued in the  
State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Board of Pharmacy; University of Hawai'i System; Family  
Medicine Center; Hawai'i Island Community Health Center; Times  
Pharmacy; The Queen's Health Systems; Lihue Pharmacy Group;  
Moloka'i Drugs, Inc.; American Pharmacists Association; Hawai'i  
Pacific Health; Walgreen Co.; Hawai'i Pharmacists Association; KTA  
Pharmacy; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; Keto Prescription Clinic;  
and fifteen individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the  
Department of Human Services, Office of the Auditor, Hawaii  
Medical Service Association, and Hawaii Association of Health  
Plans.

Your Committee finds that there is a physician shortage in  
the State. Pharmacists have made significant contributions to



help bridge the gaps created by the physician shortage, especially in rural areas and neighbor islands. Pharmacies are geographically dispersed throughout the community with extended hours of operation, making access to health care convenient for patients in each locality. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists aided in ordering and administering COVID-19 tests and vaccines in pharmacies across the State, safely expanding patient access to care. However, despite their extensive training and vital contributions, pharmacists face barriers to reimbursement from health insurance for the care that they provide. Without provider status, many pharmacists will continue to remain uncompensated for their services, limiting their ability to expand their practice and better support community health initiatives. This measure aligns Hawaii with a number of other states to help ensure pharmacists are able to continue to serve their communities and provide access to quality health care across the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

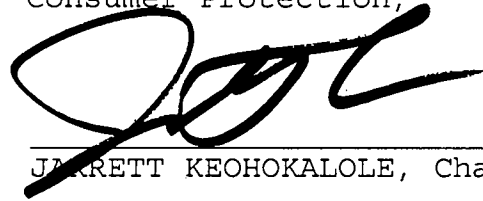
- (1) Reinserting language from the original version of this measure to require private and public health plans to recognize pharmacists licensed pursuant to chapter 461, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as participating providers for any plan delivered or issued for delivery in the State on or after July 1, 2026;
- (2) Inserting language to require payment or reimbursement to a pharmacist or pharmacy for the cost of a service performed within their scope of practice;
- (3) Removing language that would have inappropriately added pharmacists to section 346-53.64, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to Federally Qualified Health Centers;
- (4) Deleting language that would have required the Department of Human Services to submit any needed state Medicaid plan amendments and waivers to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for federal approval by an unspecified date;
- (5) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and



- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1245, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1245, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Commerce and  
Consumer Protection,



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JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**CPN**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB1245 SD1</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HHS, CPN</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/25/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">5</div>			
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted         <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;">Carol Fukunaga</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes