

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1419

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1279  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1279, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize pharmacists under contract with covered entities under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to supervise the filling or receipt of a prescription via telehealth under certain circumstances.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; AlohaCare; Alzheimer's Association-Hawaii; AARP Hawai'i; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Board of Pharmacy; Rainbow Pharmacy Lanai; and Moloka'i Drugs, Inc.

Your Committee finds that under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program (340B Program), certain health care organizations are able to receive discounts on prescription drugs. However, in order to receive these discounts, the health care organization must either operate a pharmacy at the location where the prescriptions are

2025-2779 SB1279 HD1 HSCR HMSO



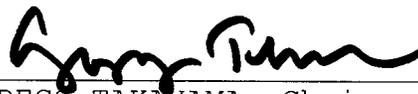
filled for distribution or contract with a participating third-party pharmacy to fill and distribute the medications. Your Committee further finds that some neighbor island health care organizations are too small to make employing a full-time pharmacist cost effective. As a result, if the retail pharmacies in those areas choose to not participate in the 340B Program, these health care organizations must contract with off-island pharmacies to fill prescriptions, resulting in delays in patient care. Your Committee believes that authorizing pharmacists to supervise the filling and receipt of prescriptions via telehealth, under certain circumstances, will improve health outcomes in the State's medically underserved areas and ensure patients receive their prescription medication in a timely fashion. Your Committee wishes to encourage community health centers to engage with area pharmacies utilizing the 340B Program to the fullest extent possible to offer in-person pharmacy services.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1279, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1279, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,



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GREGG TAKAYAMA, Chair



