

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1971

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04

, 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 Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 1279, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, 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; AARP Hawai'i; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Hawaii Primary Care Association; Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; Hawai'i Psychological Association; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Board of Pharmacy; Pūlama Lāna'i; Moloka'i Drugs, Inc.; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that existing law requires a registered pharmacist to be physically present at the site where a prescription is filled or received for distribution to a consumer. Due to a combination of factors, including geographic isolation, the lack of health care professionals, and relatively small

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populations of rural communities, certain health care organizations are unable to have a registered pharmacist be constantly present at the site.

Your Committee further finds that, under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program, certain health care organizations receive discounts on prescription drugs and are required to pass those savings off to consumers. However, for small organizations, it is not cost-effective to employ a registered pharmacist on a full-time basis, which endangers the timely provision of medications to the organization's patients. This measure will provide relief from the physical presence requirement to allow rural health care organizations to properly serve their patients.

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

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



SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



