

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1279  
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. 1279, 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 authorize registered pharmacists contracted with covered entities under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to supervise via telehealth the filling or receipt of prescriptions in certain circumstances.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Primary Care Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, AARP Hawai'i, Alzheimer's Association, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Lāna'i Community Health Center, and two individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Board of Pharmacy.

Your Committee finds that providing pharmacy services via telehealth has been crucial in expanding access to affordable health care, especially for vulnerable populations in rural communities. The benefits of telehealth pharmacy services were demonstrated by the success of the Lanai Community Health Center's Tele Pharmacy Pilot Project, which allowed over one thousand patients, who otherwise waited for mail-order refills, to receive



their medications more quickly. This measure allows the expertise and licensure of the State's limited number of pharmacists to be more broadly applied to suit the nature of an island-state through the remote supervision of filling and refilling prescribed medications. Tele-pharmacy services will directly benefit consumers, especially those in the State's isolated and underserved communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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. 1279, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1279, S.D. 2.

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



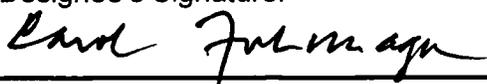
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JARRETT KEOHOKALO, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB1279 SD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HHS, CPN</b>	Date: <b>2/20/25</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
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>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes