



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR164
REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISH AND
CONVENE A MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WORKING GROUP TO
EXPLORE AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION.**

REPRESENTATIVE ROY TAKUMI, CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: April 5, 2017

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** The concept of medication synchronization appears promising and
3 may be of benefit to patients for whom the Department of Health is direct care provider or for
4 whom care is coordinated through a case management or provider agency. Thus, the department
5 is interested in the findings to be proposed by a working group as it relates to patient care.

6 The department is unable to comment on other specific issues requested by HCR164 with respect
7 to 90-day fills, pharmacist dispensing fees, patient copays, and continuing education
8 requirements.

9 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

10

11

12

13

14

15



Eric P. Douglas
Senior Director, Government Affairs

2211 Sanders Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

p 847.559.3422
c 847.651.9807
f 401.652.9342

Eric.Douglas@CVSHealth.com

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Conference Room 329; 2:00 PM

RE: HCR 164 – Requesting that the Department of Health Establish and Convene a Medication Synchronization Working Group to Explore and Propose Legislation – In Support

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the Committee:

CVS Health/Longs Drugs is in support of HCR 164 which requests that the Department of Health establish and convene a medication synchronization working group to explore and propose legislation.

We believe that the ability for a patient to consolidate prescription refills can not only help reduce the number of visits that the patient has to make to the pharmacy each month, but can also improve patient medication adherence as well. Longs Drugs/CVS Health offers medication synchronization as a service to patients in our stores (our own program's proprietary name is ScriptSync®). We have a keen interest in this patient-centered issue and would be pleased to participate as part of the working group.

CVS Health operates as the largest pharmacy chain in Hawaii under our Longs Drugs banner. We are proud to offer our patients and clients in Hawaii a wide range of comprehensive, integrated pharmacy and health operations statewide including: Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) services (CVS Caremark), Specialty Pharmacy (CVS/specialty), Mail-Order and Retail Pharmacy (CVS/pharmacy/Longs Drugs), Retail Health Clinics (CVS/minute clinic) and a distribution center.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Eric P. Douglas

SanHi Government Strategies

a limited liability law partnership

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
R. Brian Tsujimura

c/o Ashford & Wriston • 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 539-0400

gslovin@awlaw.com
mito@awlaw.com
rtsujimura@awlaw.com

governmentaffairs@awlaw.com

DATE: April 4, 2017

TO: Representative Roy Takumi
Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Submitted Via Capitol Website

RE: **HCR 164 – Requesting that the Department of Health Establish and Convene a Medication Synchronization Working Group to Explore and Propose Legislation.**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 2 p.m.
Conference Room: 329

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates stores at more than 8,200 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens now has 20 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

Walgreens **strongly supports** HCR 164, which would establish a working group tasked to gather information about medication synchronization practices across the nation with the goal of formulating a medication synchronization program for the state of Hawaii.

Medication synchronization can improve patient health by simplifying therapeutic regimens. Many patients who require long-term maintenance medications miss doses of their regular medications. Studies show that when the timing of medications is coordinated, medication adherence rates rise because patients can pick up their prescriptions on a single day.

There are 19 states that have approved medication synchronization, of which 14 states are poised to pass medication synchronization legislation. HCR 164 would create a working group tasked to review and recommend best practices learned from these other jurisdictions, with the goal of ultimately drafting proposed legislation to create standards for medication synchronization in Hawaii. Walgreens would be pleased to participate on the working group, and looks forward to contributing to the discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
R. Brian Tsujimura
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima
Matthew W. Tsujimura