



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR164**  
**REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISH AND**  
**CONVENE A MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WORKING GROUP TO**  
**EXPLORE AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION.**  
REPRESENTATIVE DELLA BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 21, 2017

Room Number: 325

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.

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# SanHi Government Strategies

a limited liability law partnership

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DATE: March 20, 2017

TO: Representative Della Belatti  
Chair, Committee on Health  
*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: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Conference Room: 329**

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Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee on Health:

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 medical 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 synchronized, 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.

For these reasons, we strongly support HCR 164 and ask the committee to pass the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

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C. Mike Kido  
Tiffany N. Yajima  
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Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

Tuesday, March 21, 2017  
Conference Room 329; 10:30 AM

**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 Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi 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

kobayashi2 - Jessi

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 11:34 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HCR164 on Mar 21, 2017 10:30AM\*

**HCR164**

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 21, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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kobayashi2 - Jessi

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:48 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: kglick@wheelchair-kauai.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR164 on Mar 21, 2017 10:30AM

**HCR164**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 21, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Glick	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The most significant issue regarding medication therapy is adherence to the plan of care. Patients who adhere to their medication directions spend less time in the hospital and enjoy a better quality of life. In addition adherence decreases total medical care costs. Synchronization of a patient's medication is the process of coordinating all of a patient's medication so that they can be picked up all on the same day of each month. Please establish this working group to further this goal.

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