

Testimony of
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Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 15, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: HB 2340, Relating to Controlled Substances

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2340, which permits the utilization of post office boxes for controlled substance prescriptions by amending the definition of "address" under chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 2340 and requests an AMENDMENT.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Each day, more than 4,400 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to care for our members at our 20 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members, and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

With high prescription volumes and patient care responsibilities, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i regularly evaluates our pharmacy operations to ensure we eliminate waste and redundancy. **Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports HB 2340 because it increases workflow efficiencies by saving pharmacists time and making good use of technology, while maintaining safety and effective chain of custody of controlled substances.**

Currently, if a controlled substance prescription has a post office box address, before dispensing, pharmacists must 1) verify the patient's ID; 2) note the ID number on the prescription; 3) change the address. HB 2340 *permits* pharmacists to eliminate these steps *if* the physical address is already on file. The volume of prescriptions received with post office box addresses is significant, especially on the neighbor islands. Therefore, we believe HB 2340 would save pharmacist time and permits pharmacists to address other patient care responsibilities.

To ensure clarity that pharmacies do not need to have a post office box *-and-* physical address, which is already required, **we request the following amendment to Section 2:**

SECTION 2. Section 329-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definition of "address" to read as follows:

"Address" means, with respect to prescriptions, the physical location where an individual resides, such as:

- (1) Street address, city, and state;
- (2) Tax map key number; or
- (3) The description of a physical location.

~~"Address" includes a post office box number only if the pharmacy dispensing the prescription has the physical location of the post office box number on file and that location is accessible." Unless the context dictates otherwise, for purposes of this chapter, "address" also includes a post office box; provided that the pharmacy dispensing the prescription has on file the physical location where an individual resides."~~

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

HB-2340

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:36:23 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/15/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support as written. Mahalo