



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

SB 568, SD2, RELATING TO ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**March 24, 2009
10:00 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports the intent of this measure as long as its
2 implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for
3 Fiscal Years 2009 – 2010.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** As yet unquantified funds to support the proposed task force.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill seeks to create a task force to develop a plan to establish and
6 implement the mandatory use of an electronic prescription drug program by pharmacists, physicians,
7 and others authorized to prescribe or dispense prescription drugs in the State by July 1, 2011.

8 HRS Chapter 489E allows for electronic transactions to occur in the State. Further, HRS
9 Chapter 328 allows for pharmacists to accept electronic prescriptions from prescribing practitioners.
10 However, current law does not require prescribing practitioners to utilize e-prescribing technologies nor
11 does it require pharmacies to accept electronic prescriptions.

12 The use of e-prescribing will continue to grow nationwide, and there is a significant push by
13 Medicare to get physicians to start utilizing e-prescribing technology in their practice. However, there
14 are significant cost issues that physicians, pharmacies and other medical facilities would be required to

1 commit in order to purchase the needed hardware/software technology to transmit and receive these e-
2 prescriptions in a secure manner.

3 The Department of Health supports the creation of a task force made up of stakeholders (e.g.
4 prescribing practitioners, pharmacies, the public, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
5 and other agencies) to examine new and existing approaches to e-prescribing and hopefully develop
6 viable solutions and constructive recommendations.

7 We have concerns about what it will cost to support a task force and whether we will have funds
8 to perform all of our current tasks.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.