An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: HB 254 – Relating to Medicines

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Creagan and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 254 which would establish a biosimilars working group.

HMSA supports the Committee's effort to examine potential state regulation of biosimilar medicines. Biosimilars have come under increased scrutiny following the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for their potential to offer affordable and safe alternatives to more costly biologics.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes several provisions--collectively referred to as the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA)--which offer incentives designed to encourage competition in the market for biologic drugs. Additionally, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have also issued pricing and other polices for biosimilars specifically. As such, some states have begun examining and implementing regulations relating to prescribing authority, interchangeability, safety, and record keeping as they relate to biosimilars.

HMSA recognizes the potential role biosimlars could play in addressing the overall cost of health insurance in our state and would therefore look forward to actively participating in the working group should this legislation pass and become enacted.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 254.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations

Testimony of
Gary M. Slovin / Mihoko E. Ito
on behalf of
Walgreen Company

DATE: January 26, 2016

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti
Chair, Committee on Health
Submitted Via HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **H.B. 254 – Relating to Medicines**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room: 329

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee on Health:

We submit these **comments** 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 believes that interchangeable biosimilars should be substituted in a manner similar to generic drugs. We hope that the working group reaches the same conclusion.

Additionally, Walgreens would respectfully request that the specific reference in the bill to the "Hawaii Pharmacist's Association" at page 3, line 15 be amended to read "the pharmacy industry". This will allow for broader participation on the working group by the pharmacy industry, rather than a specific pharmacist's association.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit comments on this measure.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima

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January 26, 2016

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

HB 254 - RELATING TO MEDICINES
Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 254, which establishes a biosimilar working group to make recommendations on state regulation of biosimilars.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

The development of biologic drugs has provided cancer patients and their physicians with access to improved therapeutic options. As generics have done for small-molecule drugs, interchangeable biosimilars have the potential to increase price competition on older biologic drugs, and result in lower cost burdens for cancer patients. As biosimilar policies are developed, they must focus on ensuring the safety and efficacy of all biologic drugs, whether innovator or biosimilar, and policies must also ensure access and affordability of biosimilars for cancer patients. These dual goals should be the focus of the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

creagan1 - Shayne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 4:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: rontthi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB254 on Jan 27, 2016 08:30AM

HB254
Submitted on: 1/26/2016
Testimony for HLT on Jan 27, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Place amended legislation for authority and evaluation of biosimilar drugs under existing HRS Chapter 328 Part VI. Drug Product Selection Mahalo.

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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