

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2656 SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION.

SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018 Room Number: 211

- 1 Fiscal Implications: N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB2656 SD1, which is the
- 3 consensus recommendation of a working group requested by HCR164 SD1 SLH 2017. DOH
- 4 generally endorses the premise that medication synchronization may improve patient health,
- 5 reduce health care costs, and promote efficient health care operations. However, the department
- 6 is unable to comment on the time, effort, and complexity of implementing a medication
- 7 synchronization program in Hawaii, and must defer to other agencies.
- 8 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.



DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR DOUGLAS S. CHIN

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2018

Friday, February 23, 2018 11:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2656, S.D. 1, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION.

TO THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2656, S.D. 1, Relating to Medication Synchronization. My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department's Insurance Division. The Department appreciates the intent of this bill, which is similar to H.B. 2145, H.D. 1, and submits the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to facilitate synchronization of prescription medication dispensation.

This bill will encourage improved medication adherence rates for patients with chronic conditions. Better adherence and coordination may lead to improved health outcomes for patients, thereby helping to reduce healthcare costs.

In S.D. 1, subsection (e), page 9, lines 6-10, a network pharmacy is required to "identify an anchor prescription to which all other prescriptions may be synced for the

Senate Bill No. 2656, S.D. 1 February 23, 2018 Page 2

purposes of medication synchronization; provided that *any* medication dispensed in an unbreakable package *shall be considered the anchor* . . ." (emphasis added). This language may be construed as a mandate that every prescription in an unbreakable package be *the* "anchor prescription." This may be problematic to implement if an individual has more than one prescription dispensed in an unbreakable package.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 23, 2018

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2656, SD1 – Relating to Medication Synchronization

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2656, SD1 requiring the health insurance and hospital and medical service plans that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispense by pharmacies.

HMSA participated in the interim medication synchronization working group to examine whether synchronization could be applied effectively and safely in Hawaii. Medication synchronization can lead to improved adherence for medication regimen for people with particular chronic conditions; however, we do note the need for appropriate management standards and review processes in order to determine the program's effectiveness to the member and the plan.

We appreciate and support the amendments reflected in the SD1 version of this bill. We also suggest that the Committee consider whether further safeguards are warranted to prevent aggressive marketing practices in the form of medication discounts that would lead to members being enticed to change pharmacies multiple times within a short period and the impact that could have on medication synchronization (partial fills, etc.).

Thank you for allowing us to comment on SB 2656, SD1.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong

Vice-President, Government Relations



DATE: February 22, 2018

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted Via Capitol Website

Senate Bill 2656, S.D. 1 Relating to Medication Synchronization RE:

Hearing Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Conference Room: 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

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 19 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

Walgreens strongly supports S.B. 2656, S.D.1 which facilitates medication synchronization by requiring health insurance plans that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies.

Medication synchronization allows a pharmacist to review patient medications and sync medication refills to all be picked up on a single day each month. Aligning refills can improve patient health by simplifying the patient effort needed to comply with medication therapies. 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.

Pursuant to 2017 House Concurrent Resolution 164, a working group was established which reviewed best practices for medication synchronization, including 90-day fills, pharmacist dispensing fees, patient copays, and recommend draft legislation for a medication synchronization program in Hawaii.

The group consisted of six members from the pharmaceutical groups, health insurance groups, and representatives from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and the Department of Health.

Research shows that medication synchronization has a direct and positive effect on patient adherence to their medication therapy of up to 50%. For these reasons, Walgreens supports medication synchronization programs as a proven method that improves adherence and simplifies the process for patients to obtain their necessary medication.

We would note that we are still reviewing the changes made in the S.D.1 version of this measure, and are discussing the language with other stakeholders. We would in the meantime ask the committee to pass the measure so that discussions on this bill may continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

SB-2656-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:09:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradley Kuo	Testifying for Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)

Subject: SB2656 – Relating to Medication Synchronization

Hearing: February 23, 2018, 11:00 a.m. Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB2656. HAPN is in **strong support** for pharmacists to assist Hawaii's resident with medication synchronization for the purpose of improving patient ability to receive medications while reducing the chance of missing doses of chronic medication.

Many of Hawaii's Advanced Practice Registered Nurses have a strong interest in the wellbeing of our resident populations. This bill would provide our partners in pharmacy the ability to assist patients with improved medication planning, which would lead to better adherence. This could significantly improve patient outcomes and Hawaii's population will be healthier as a result.

HAPN strongly supports the language in SB2656 with pharmacists' ability to continue to provide high quality care.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of HAPN with your committee. Thank you for your enduring support of the nursing profession in the Aloha State.

Respectfully,

Bradley Kuo

HAPN President-Elect

HAPN Legislative Committee, Vice Chair

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:28:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:58:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keri Oyadomari	Individual	Support	No

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:00:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Derek Tengan	Individual	Support	No	1

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:05:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Joo Kim	Individual	Support	No	

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:42:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Lauri Madanay	Individual	Support	No	

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:09:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

<u>SB-2656-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:55:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Okamura	Individual	Support	No

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Gary Tanimitsu and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656, SD1. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward ensuring that many of our kupuna touched by cancer have the coordination and access to care that allows them to get the medication they need with less difficulty.

As a kupuna, I ask for your support on this bill. I currently have a number of chronic diseases that I'm able to manage with medications. I consider myself fortunate enough to still have access to a car and am physically healthy enough to drive to the pharmacy at my convenience. I am too aware however, of friends of mine that are unable to get the medication they need in the time that they need it because they rely on family members or other friends for rides to the pharmacy due to being physically unable to drive or reliably walk to a bus stop.

I want to support this legislation because of the impact that this legislation can have for my friends, and possibly myself if I'm ever not physically able to drive at my convenience Medication synchronization will make it easier for kupuna to obtain their medication prescriptions at one time without the problems of transportation access.

I urge you to support SB2656, SD1 for all Hawaii residents that require multiple prescription drugs as a result of a chronic disease. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo, Gary Tanimitsu

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alberto Rodriguez, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB2656, SD1 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, that I had the opportunity to speak with during Relay for Life events, struggle to maintain their daily routines while going into treatment. They are already stressed and anxious as a result of multiple doctors' appointments, physical therapy, missing work days, family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. These patients should be able to get their medications in a single transaction. We know the value of time in a moment of crisis. We know how stressful and frustrating can be to pick up medications by piecemeal in multiple days. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to their daily routine.

SB2656, SD1 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB2656, SD1.

Thank you, Alberto Rodriguez

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Beverly Wong and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656, SD1. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward ensuring that many of our kupuna touched by cancer have the coordination and access to care that allows them to get the medication they need with less difficulty.

As a kupuna, I ask for your support on this bill. Medication synchronization it will make it easier for kupuna to obtain their medication prescriptions at one time without the problems of transportation and standing in line on different days. Most importantly, it may alert the pharmacist if there are conflicts in the prescribed medication and allowing for improved medication adherence, enhanced patient access, increased understanding of prescription drug use, and greater pharmacist oversight.

I urge you to support SB2656, SD1 for all Hawaii residents that require multiple prescription drugs as a result of a chronic disease. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo, Beverly Wong

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bernie Sakoda and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656, SD1. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward ensuring that many of our residents touched by cancer have the coordination and access to care that allows them to get the medication they need with less difficulty.

I ask for your support on this bill. On our neighbor islands and throughout rural Oahu, being able to obtain medication prescriptions at one time is an essential component to ensuring that we have adequate access to care. For residents with busy schedules, the last thing they want to do is find out that they need to make several trips to the local pharmacy to necessary medications for their chronic diseases.

I urge you to support SB2656, SD1 for all Hawaii residents that require multiple prescription drugs as a result of a chronic disease. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo, Bernie Sakoda

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Misty Figuera, and I am writing to express my support for SB2656, SD1 which would allow pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month.

I am currently a student at UH Hilo. As a twenty-one-year-old student who has a chronic disease and has also recently had surgery, I am more than familiar with the fact that life doesn't stop when cancer and chronic illness comes knocking on the door. Bills still need to be paid, family still has sport events that need to be attended, and term papers still need to be written by their due date. Life is already stressful – being sick only makes it worse. For those of us with busy schedules struggling to make it financially, the last thing you want to do is find out that you need to make several trips to the local pharmacy to get medication you need on a piecemeal basis.

Unfortunately, that is a real concern in my life. I am in a place right now where I have to push back my doctor's appointments (for seeing my surgeon and working on treating my disease) six weeks because the pharmacy was not able to better coordinate my prescriptions being filled and as a result, some of the symptoms that the prescriptions were supposed to prevent reappeared.

I cannot begin to tell you how important this is for me. Medication synchronization allows pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month. This will improve patient outcomes like mine by improving medication adherence, enhanced patient access, increased understanding of prescription drug use, and greater pharmacist oversight.

I urge you to support SB2656, SD1 for myself and so many others that are in the same place I am currently in. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo, Misty Figuera

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Tyler Matayoshi, I work in the field of mental health and I am submitting my testimony in support of SB2656, SD1 Relating to Medication Synchronization. The passage of this bill would provide enormous relief to patients with serious and persistent mental illness by allowing them to pick up multiple prescribed medications at once.

Patients who present with serious and persistent mental illness experience a daily struggle to honor the day-to-day responsibilities others consider trivial. Those with diagnoses ranging from severe anxiety to depression to schizophrenia are often home bound and rely on medication just to step outside. This difficulty is compounded when they have multiple prescriptions with different and often strict pick-up days. It is not uncommon for them to spend an hour or more working themselves up to go outside, and picking up sorely needed medicine on a timetable is further stress they can ill afford. Medication synchronization would greatly reduce this stress by reducing these outings and allow them to focus more time on recovery.

Please support the passage of SB2656, SD1 for the sake of your constituents struggling with serious mental illness.

Mahalo, Tyler Matayoshi

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Jenny Hausler, and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656, SD1, which would allow pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month.

I have served as a caregiver to many family members that have suffered from cancer, including my husband and my sister. During the course of treatment, one of the big factors that cancer patients and their caregivers have to endure is the stress of coordinating care around this terrible disease, and knowing that there's still everyday life that has to be taken care of. Bills still need to be paid, and children and grandchildren still need to be cared for. The last thing you want to do is find out that you need to make several trips to the local pharmacy to get medication you need on a piecemeal basis.

As a caregiver, I want to make sure that so many other caregivers and cancer patients in our state can take the inconvenience of multiple trips to the pharmacist out of the way. Medication synchronization allows pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month. This will improve patient outcomes by improving medication adherence, enhanced patient access, increased understanding of prescription drug use, and greater pharmacist oversight.

I urge you to support SB2656, SD1, relating to medical synchronization. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo, Jenny Hausler

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Stella Ye Eun Lee, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB2656, SD1 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors' appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pickups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pickups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away.

SB2656, SD1 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB2656, SD1.

Thank you, Stella Ye Eun Lee

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Patrick Tran, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB2656, SD1 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors' appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pickups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pickups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away.

SB2656, SD1 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB2656, SD1.

Thank you, Patrick Tran

RE: SB2656, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and other members of the committee,

My name is Molly Pierce, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB2656, SD1 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors' appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pickups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pickups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away.

SB2656, SD1 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB2656, SD1.

Thank you, Molly Pierce