

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2340, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the definition of "address" in Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 329, the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, to allow post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes to be permissible for a prescription to be considered valid, only if a physical address where an individual resides is on file with the dispensing pharmacy.

The Board appreciates the intent of this measure to allow post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes to be used for controlled substances prescriptions, as long as the physical address is on file with the dispensing pharmacy. This would save pharmacists time because they would not have to take the required steps to change the post office box number to a physical address.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

March 29, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Re: HB 2340, HD2, SD1, Relating to Controlled Substances

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2340, HD2, SD1, which permits post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes to be permissible for a prescription to be considered valid, only if a physical address where an individual resides is on file with the dispensing pharmacy.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 2340, HD2, SD1

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, HD2, SD1 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 or rural 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, HD2, SD1 *permits* pharmacists to eliminate these steps *if* the physical address is already on file. The volume of prescriptions received with post office or rural office box addresses is significant, especially on the neighbor islands. Therefore, we believe HB 2340, HD2, SD1 would save pharmacist time and permits pharmacists to address other patient care responsibilities.

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

HB-2340-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:40:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of HB2340 HD2 SD1. Mahalo

**Testimony of
Jenine Cabrera
MSW Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**Before:
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair**

**March 29, 2022
10:00 AM
Conference Room 229 & via Videoconference**

Re: HB 2340, HD2, SD1 Relating to Controlled Substances

Aloha, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today. My name is Jenine Cabrera, and I am a current Master of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in support of HB 2340, HD2, SD1, which seeks to allow post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes to be permissible for a prescription to be considered valid, so long as the physical address where an individual resides is on file within the dispensing pharmacy.

Within the United States, an estimated 26 million individuals receive their medication by mail. Some of these individuals choose this delivery method for themselves, while others are required to do so by their insurance coverages. Not only does expanding the definition of “address” as outlined in Section 329-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, allow for pharmacies to work more efficiently (while still maintaining the security of controlled substances), but it will also make mailed prescriptions more easily accessible for those whose lives are dependent on certain medications.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many adults have also switched to receiving their medication by mail due to convenience, since no face-to-face contact is necessary to receive their prescriptions, (especially those prescriptions that are required by a patient in the long-term). HB 2340, HD2, SD1 allows for individuals to continue receiving their necessary medications by delivery to physical addresses, as well as to post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes, as long as their physical address is already noted on file. This will help to ensure that no unnecessary extra steps are required by patients (such as going into the pharmacy to provide identification, or submitting a change of address), that no time or funding is unnecessarily spent by pharmacies and their employees, and most importantly, that consumers will be able to receive their medications in a timely manner.

For these reasons, I believe that HB 2340, HD2, SD1 will prove to be beneficial for the citizens of Hawaii, and I hope that all members of the committee will take these points into consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this matter.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenine Cabrera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenine" being more prominent than the last name "Cabrera".

Jenine Cabrera
jenineca@hawaii.edu
(671) 488-4080

**Testimony of
Daryl Damian**

Before:

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair**

**March 29, 2022
10:00 AM
via Videoconference**

Re: HB 2340, HD2, SD1 Relating to Controlled Substances

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB 2340, HD2, SD1, which aims to allow post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes to be permissible for a prescription to be considered valid, only if a physical address where an individual resides is on file with the dispensing pharmacy.

My name is Daryl Damian and I am writing in support of HB 2340, HD2, SD1. With this bill, I believe that pharmacies and patients will both benefit while the same amount of risk while handling controlled substances still applies. A patient requiring medication delivery to their post office does not always have the time or capabilities to visit their pharmacy and work through a lengthy verification process to have their medicine delivered to a post office box address.

Approval of this bill ensures that those unable to receive their medication via physical home address are provided an expedited service delivery process that is more convenient for them and their health needs. As for the concern of fraud and abuse of controlled substances, I think the risks are just as likely as the risks involved in mailing through physical address delivery. I believe that pharmacies and citizens should be able to dispense and receive their medications through any mailing address provided by the consumer, including P.O. boxes, and so I support HB 2340, HD2, SD1.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Daryl Damian
(671) 727-1120
daryl.damian.1999@gmail.com