

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Friday, March 17, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 473, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to exempt drug manufacturers, wholesale prescription drug distributors, and third-party logistics providers of home dialysis drugs, supplies, and devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies, provided that certain conditions are met.

This bill proposes to create an entirely new section, which exempts certain providers from the Board's statutes. It is unclear to the Board whether these amendments will apply to in-state or out-of-state prescription wholesale distributors, manufacturers, or third-party logistics providers or all. The Board requests clarification on the purpose for such an exemption.

Exempting existing businesses who supply prescription drugs and medical supplies and devices from licensing requirements for specific drug and medical supplies will remove protections, which ensure patient safety. Exempt businesses will not: be required to have their facilities inspected; have to confirm that appropriate storage requirements are met; or have to acknowledge and confirm that proper records are kept. The requirements for licensure, including inspections ensure compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes chapters 328 and 461. These requirements are instrumental in protecting the consumers of Hawaii.

It is also unclear why a wholesale prescription drug distributor, manufacturer, or third-party logistics provider would "dispense" products directly to the patient when Hawaii Administrative Rules section 16-95-2, states the definition of "'Wholesale distributor' means any person or entity in this State engaged in the transfer of

prescription drugs to a person other than a consumer or patient...” If an out-of-state business wishes to “dispense” prescription drugs or devices directly into this State to the end user or patient, then the dispensing must occur under a permitted pharmacy and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

Re: **SB 473 SD 1 – RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY**
Hearing: Friday, March 17 22, 2023, 9:35 a. m., Conference 329 & via Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness.

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7500 members stand in strong support of SB 473, SD1. This measure would exempt drug manufacturers, wholesale prescription drug distributors, and third-party logistics providers of home dialysis drugs, supplies, and devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies provided that certain conditions are met.

As provided in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform adopted at the DPH State Convention on May 28, 2022, our policy is as follows:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We believe all people have an inherent right to live a healthy life in a clean and safe environment. We believe all people have the right to access high quality healthcare regardless of ability to pay. We believe the wellbeing of all of Hawai'i's people is of the utmost importance. We support the creation of a universal healthcare system that values people over profit, and follows best practices and current research to deliver holistic care covering both physical and mental healthcare. We support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to HR 1976, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All.

We support public funding to research and develop comprehensive public health solutions to the diseases and illnesses of today, as well as those of the future. We support public funding for reproductive healthcare. We support global health initiatives that prepare for and prevent the spread of infectious diseases around the world. We believe in harnessing the latest technology, including tele-health services, to remove barriers and increase access to care with a goal of reducing health disparities in Hawai'i's rural and underserved communities. [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://www.hawaiidemocrats.org)



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 17, 2023

Page 2

Exempting drug manufacturers, wholesale prescription drug distributors, and third-party logistics providers of home dialysis drugs, supplies, and devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies provided that certain conditions are met are consistent with the policies of the Democratic Party of Hawaii Health and Wellbeing Platform plank, to wit, that we believe in harnessing the latest technology, including tele-health services, to remove barriers and increase access to care with a goal of reducing health disparities in Hawai'i's rural and underserved communities.

Please support and pass this bill.

/s/ Melodie Aduja & Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



An Affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care

Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Friday, March 17, 2023, at 9:00 am
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

SB473, SD1 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy

Good morning, Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness.

My name is Jocelyn Saccamago and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawaii and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

Liberty Dialysis **SUPPORTS the INTENT** of SB473, SD1 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy.

Patients who need dialysis may have the option of treating in the comfort of their own home rather than at an outpatient dialysis center. Many experts agree that home dialysis - either peritoneal or hemodialysis - is the best option for treating kidney failure whenever possible. That's because choosing home dialysis can mean greater scheduling flexibility, fewer food restrictions, and better outcomes. Home dialysis treatment can also be done longer and more frequently, so it's gentler on the body, meaning patients feel better and have an improved quality of life. The intent of SB473, SD1 is to help support these patients.

Thank you for your consideration.