

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1424

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1245
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1245, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to mandate reimbursement for services provided by pharmacists within their scope of practice by private and public health plans in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Board of Pharmacy; Hep Free Hawaii; Hawai'i Pacific Health; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; The Queen's Health Systems; National Community Pharmacists Association; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; Walgreen Co.; Hawai'i Pharmacists Association; American Pharmacists Association; The Family Medicine Center; Times Pharmacy; Moloka'i Drugs, Inc.; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Office of the Auditor; Hawaii Medical Service Association; and Hawaii Association of Health Plans.

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Your Committee finds that pharmacists are geographically dispersed throughout the State's communities and can bridge the gaps created by the State's physician shortage by educating patients on how and when to check blood sugar, ways to avoid and manage hypoglycemia, how to take their medications correctly to avoid adverse effects, and various medication utilization techniques. Your Committee further finds that the lack of access to pharmacist services disproportionately affects patient populations in the most isolated areas of the State. Aligning the pharmacist reimbursement practices with the provision of their services, comparable to other health care providers, will allow pharmacies to remain open and enable local pharmacists to continue providing vital care to their patients.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1245, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1245, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREG TAKAYAMA, Chair



