

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1242

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1359  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Health and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 1359, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure affordable prescription medications for Hawaii's uninsured, underinsured, low-income, elderly, and disabled residents.

Specifically, this measure creates a Hawaii State Pharmacy Assistance Program by merging the current State Pharmacy Assistance Program, which coordinates the Medicare Part D drug benefit and the Hawaii Rx Plus Program under a single comprehensive Hawaii State Pharmacy Assistance Program umbrella.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health. The AARP submitted testimony supporting the intent of this measure. Hawaii Medical Service Association submitted comments.

Your Committees find that the escalating costs of prescription medications have resulted in our neediest residents being unable to afford their medications. Often these individuals are forced to choose between necessities of daily life and needed prescription medication. Your Committees further find that this

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measure will make prescription drugs more affordable for our communities, while augmenting State funding with drug manufacturer rebates.

Your Committees note that the Department of Human Services has recommended that the amount of \$50,000 should be appropriated to conduct the study on determining the cost of implementing various aspects of the Hawaii State Pharmacy Assistance Program.

Your Committees amended this measure by changing the effective date for the substantive provisions of the measure that establish the Hawaii State Pharmacy Assistance Program from July 1, 2020, to January 1, 2008, due to the fact the Medicare Part D plans will be implementing new rates as of January 2008, and to July 1, 2007, for the appropriation.

Your Committees further amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1359, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1359, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Health and  
Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
and Affordable Housing,


  
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair

  
DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health**  
**HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:*  HB 1359 HD1	Committee Referral:  HTH/CPH, WAM	Date:  <i>3/20/07</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
MENOR, Ron				✓
WHALEN, Paul				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

