



TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 7, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE I-SAVERX PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008 **TIME:** 9:00 AM

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229
Deliver to: Committee Clerk, Room 407, 1 Copy

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
or Wade H. Hargrove, Deputy Attorney General.

Chair Kokubun and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General has serious concerns regarding this bill, specifically, the ability of the State to execute its provisions within federal restrictions.

The purpose of the bill is to direct the Governor to establish Hawaii's participation in the I-SaveRx prescription drug program to provide residents with increased access to affordable drugs. Hawaii residents would have access to the I-SaveRx program through an Internet website and a toll-free twenty-four-hour telephone number run by Illinois' pharmacy benefit manager, Pegasus Health Services Limited, which has existing relationships with licensed pharmacies in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

We have identified several legal problems with this bill concerning FDA requirements and approval.

First, importing a drug into the United States that is unapproved or does not comply with the labeling requirements in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act ("FFDCA") is prohibited under 21 U.S.C. section 331(a), (c), and (d). Under the same section of the FFDCA, the interstate shipment of any prescription drug that lacks required FDA approval is also illegal. Interstate shipment includes importation such as bringing drugs from a foreign country, like Canada, into the

United States. In Vermont v. Leavitt, 405 F. Supp. 2d 466 (D. Vt. 2005), the State of Vermont wanted the state employee medical benefit plan to be allowed to establish a program for importation of prescription medications from Canada. The court held that the proposed program would violate provisions of the FFDCA governing re-importation of drugs and packaging and labeling.

Second, the drug distribution network for legal prescription drugs in the United States is a "closed" system that involves several players who move drug products from the point of manufacture to the end user, and provides the American public with multiple levels of protection against receiving unsafe, ineffective, or poor quality medications. In United States v. Rx Depot, Inc., 290 F. Supp. 2d 1238 (N.D. Okla. 2003), the court explained that unapproved prescription drugs and drugs imported from foreign countries by someone other than the United States manufacturer do not have the same assurance of safety and efficacy as drugs regulated by the FDA. Even if the drug was manufactured in the United States and approved by the FDA, then shipped to a purchaser in a foreign country and brought back in through Illinois, once it leaves the United States it loses its FDA approval. Therefore, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. section 381(d)(1), it is illegal for any person other than the original manufacturer of a drug to import into the United States a drug that is originally manufactured in the United States and sent to another country. Failure to comply with the applicable federal law would expose any individual involved with this program to both civil and criminal liability pursuant to 21 U.S.C. sections 331, 332, 333, and 381(d)(1) and 18 U.S.C. sections 2 and 371.

The Attorney General would like this Committee to be informed on these issues. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Affordable Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 7, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE I-SAVERX PRESCRIPTION
DRUG PROGRAM**

Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to direct the Governor to establish the State of Hawaii's participation in the I-SaveRx prescription drug program to provide residents with increased access to affordable drugs.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the intent of the Legislature to lower the cost of prescription drugs for the citizens of Hawaii but we must oppose this bill because it will require State funds that will adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

There will be costs to implement and administer the I-SaveRx program and this bill has no appropriation for the administering of this program. This bill proposes to place the I-SaveRx program in chapter 346 which covers DHS. Even though this bill proposes that Hawaii's I-SaveRx program will be administered by the State of Illinois,

DHS will still require new positions to gather the information for Illinois and to monitor the I-SaveRx program as required by this bill. Also, since Illinois is the primary administrator of the pharmacy benefits management agreement for this program, DHS will also have costs to pay to the State of Illinois as a participating State.

The Department needs to point out that the State of Hawaii would be prohibited from utilizing Federal Medicaid matching funds to purchase prescription drugs from the I-SaveRx Prescription Drug Program because these drugs are purchased from Canada and Europe. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers imported prescription drugs as unapproved new drugs, and Federal Medicaid rules clearly indicate that only FDA approved drugs can be prescribed.

The Department also has a concern as to the appropriateness of the placement of this type of non-Medicaid program in the Department of Human Services statutes in chapter 346.

Inasmuch as this bill will require additional State appropriations, the Department opposes this bill and respectfully requests that such funding not adversely impact nor replace the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General as to the legality of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Friday, March 28, 2008
9:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7, H. D. 1, RELATING TO THE I-SAVERX
PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM.**

TO THE HONORABLE RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dr. Elwin Goo, Chairperson of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"). The Board thanks you for the opportunity to present **written testimony** on House Bill No. 7, H. D. 1, Relating to the I-SaveRx Prescription Drug Program. **The Board opposes this bill.**

The purpose of this bill is to direct the Governor to establish the State of Hawaii's participation in the I-SaveRx prescription drug program to allow residents to have access to affordable drugs. The I-SaveRx prescription drug program was developed by the State of Illinois and Governor Rod Blagojevich to allow consumers to purchase affordable prescription refills from pharmacies in Canada and the United Kingdom, who obtain their drugs from wholesalers in Canada, Ireland or the United Kingdom.

The Board opposes this bill for several reasons. First, the importation of drugs into the United States is prohibited under the United States Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act. This program would allow residents of this State to obtain their prescription drugs from entities outside of the U.S., in violation of federal regulations.

Second, drugs imported from outside the United States cannot be guaranteed safe because they have not been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"). The drugs obtained for the I-SaveRx prescription drug program come from wholesalers in

Canada, Ireland or the United Kingdom. These drug manufacturers are not regulated by the FDA. The FDA has stringent guidelines and regulations when it comes to the manufacturing of prescription medications. Also, allowing these imported drugs into the "system" may mean allowing counterfeit prescription drugs into the U. S.

Third, this bill waives consumer rights from any legal recourse against the State of Hawaii for any drugs received via the I-SaveRx prescription drug program. Consumers will not be able to get their money back on failed medications. They may also be unable to obtain detailed information about the drugs received from outside the U.S. Also, there is no recourse for reimbursement for subsequent health costs that may result from taking the wrong medication.

The Board is aware and sympathizes with the high cost of prescription drugs and the need for a program to provide Hawaii residents access to safe and affordable prescription drugs. However, to allow drugs into Hawaii through the I-SaveRx prescription drug program is not the answer.

The Board feels that allowing drugs to be shipped to Hawaii from outside the United States would, besides being contrary to federal regulations, greatly jeopardize the health of the citizens of this State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill No. 7, H. D. 1.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 601 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2991



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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
March 28, 2008

H.B. 7, H.D.1 – RELATING TO THE I-SAVERX
PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

The Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA), AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports H.B. 7, HD1, which directs the Governor to enter into a written agreement to participate in the I-SaveRx prescription drug program. The I-SaveRx program is a prescription drug reimportation program developed by the State of Illinois in 2004. Through this program, Illinois consumers are allowed to use licensed pharmacies from Canada, Australia and New Zealand to purchase lower-priced prescription drugs. Since Illinois implemented the program, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Vermont have joined as participating states.

While the reimportation of prescription drugs is not a long-term, comprehensive solution to making drugs more affordable, it will help Hawaii consumers with an interim option to obtain safe and less expensive medications. Consumers in the United States pay more for medicines than the rest of the world. Estimates are that program participants will save between 25-50% on the cost of their medications. The I-Save Rx program will be especially beneficial for those without drug insurance.

We represent over 9,000 retired HGEA members who depend upon benefits received upon retirement. The I-SaveRx prescription drug program will result in savings to these retired members on the cost of their medications at a minimal cost to the State. It will also provide members accessibility in obtaining safe and affordable prescription drugs through the Internet and through a twenty-four hour toll-free telephone number. The program is voluntary and allows members to refill prescriptions equal to a three-month supply. Reimportation yields considerable savings for individuals and state government programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director



POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
NO.1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
150 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TO: SENATE-SGT-AT- ARMS

March 25, 2008
Fax 586-6659

FROM: Bruce McCullough
Legislative Committee, PABEA

FOR: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

RE: HB 7, HD 1 Relating to the I-SaveRX Prescription Drug Program

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: RM 229 (I will be testifying in person).

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, which is a State appointed Board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA, but of the board.

PABEA is in strong support of this proposed legislation.

I-SaveRx is a prescription drug reimportation program developed by the State of Illinois that allows Illinois consumers to refill prescriptions for the most common brand-name prescription drugs used to treat chronic illness at affordable prices from pharmacies in Canada and the United Kingdom.

This bill amends Chapter 346 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes by inserting a new section to enable Hawaii to participate in the I-Save Rx program that is

currently in effect in the State of Illinois as well as several other states that are participating in the program.

Since Illinois implemented the I-Save Rx prescription drug program,, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, and Vermont have joined the program as participating states.

Statement



In Opposition to House Bill 7, H.D. 1

March 28, 2008

Position: The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) respectfully opposes House Bill 7, H.D. 1 (HB 7, H.D. 1) because it would likely jeopardize the health and well-being of patients and compromise the integrity of the prescription drug supply in the United States.

HB 7, H.D. 1 would allow the State of Hawaii and its residents to join an illegal importation website called "I-SaveRx" which is currently utilized by a limited number of states as a way to facilitate the distribution of potentially unsafe and illegal drugs to state residents from foreign pharmacies.

PhRMA and its member companies realize the importance of providing patients with access to life-sustaining and cost-effective pharmaceuticals. However, PhRMA urges Hawaii legislators to consider the safety and liability concerns associated with importing and facilitating the importation of pharmaceuticals from abroad.

Patient Safety Is Jeopardized

On January 11th, 2007, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) released a press statement entitled, *2006 Unprecedented Year of Increased Fake Drug Production, Introduction into U.S. Drug Supply*. In its press release, the NABP states that "one of Canada's largest internet pharmacies is selling counterfeit versions of Lipitor, Crestor, Celebrex and seven other drugs." Additionally, the NABP discussed the 2005 case in the United Kingdom where 10,000 packs of Lipitor were found to have been mixed with counterfeit packs and at least 2,500 of these used by patients before it was determined that they were counterfeit.

Internet pharmacies that claim to be Canadian, Irish, or British may have no ties at all to Canada, Ireland, or the United Kingdom. Many internet pharmacies actually based in these countries obtain their drugs from third-world sources such as India, Thailand, and the Philippines. Furthermore, the Canadian equivalent of the US FDA is not designed to provide oversight on products that merely pass through Canada destined for patients in the US. Patient health is further jeopardized when licensed pharmacists are replaced by questionable internet sites.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) estimates that approximately 1% or less of drugs in the United States are tainted or counterfeit.¹ Assuming that is accurate, that means approximately 3,500,000 U.S. prescriptions may be potentially affected by counterfeit drugs each year.² Recent discoveries in counterfeit drugs in the United States have included AIDS/HIV therapy, over-the-counter pain medications, antibiotics, insulin, cholesterol drugs, hormone replacement therapy, cardiac drugs, antihistamines, and many more.³ The use of counterfeit drugs can cause harm in variety of ways including ingesting the wrong drug which means the patient is not being treated for their condition; getting the wrong concentration or dose which can result in death; taking a drug with no active ingredients which means the patient's condition is not being treated; and ingesting dangerous materials used to make the fake drugs.⁴

In a May 20, 2005, letter to Governor Kenny Guinn of Nevada, the FDA stated that importation of foreign drugs is illegal and outlined numerous safety concerns. In this letter, FDA Associate Commissioner for Policy and

¹ Bryan A. Liang, *Over the Virtual and Geographic Borders: Understanding Importation and Counterfeit Drugs*, 36 Cal. W. Int'l L.J., 11 (2005), citing Paul M. Rudolph & Ilisa B.G. Bernstein, *Counterfeit Drugs*, 350 New Eng. J. Med. 1384 (2004).

² Id. at 11.

³ Id.

⁴ Id. at 11-12.

Planning Randall W. Lutter indicated, “We cannot provide adequate assurance to the American public that the drug products delivered to consumers in the United States from foreign countries are the same products approved by the FDA.”⁵

Legal Concerns and Potential Liability for Public Entities

In addition to safety concerns, the FDA indicates that states and/or other entities that encourage, act, or even cause illegal importation run afoul of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”)⁶. FDCA violations have already triggered Department of Justice enforcement actions. As a practical matter, FDA believes that, “it is extremely unlikely that any program in [a state or municipality] could ensure that all of the applicable legal requirements are met.” The administration and costs to a state associated with attempting to create and maintain a program that could oversee the distribution of foreign drugs to its residents, often on an individual basis, would likely be so substantial that a state would be unable to adequately protect against all possible civil and criminal violations.

If a state provides Canadian and other foreign drugs directly or facilitates their distribution, such as through contracting with foreign pharmacies, importing directly or participating in a website (such as I-Save-Rx) that will provide imported drugs to state residents, state tort liability acts would apply. Hawaii attempts to shield itself from liability to any resident who may be injured by an imported prescription drug by giving itself immunity under Section 346-L on page 10 of the bill.

Importation Savings are Negligible and FDA Approved Drugs are Available at Low Cost or No Cost

On September 19th, 2006, the Illinois Auditor General released his state-sponsored audit of I-SaveRx after 19 months in operation. Rather than saving the state of Illinois a windfall from importing prescription drugs, the Auditor General found that I-SaveRx instead cost Illinois taxpayers over \$1 million and reached only 4,000 people. While importation was hailed by some as a means to save money, analysis of actual data continues to show that this is not the case.

PhRMA and the biopharmaceutical industry are committed to working with the FDA and other agencies to keep America’s drug supply safe. We are equally committed to ensuring that every American has access to quality medicines. In April 2005, PhRMA established the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (www.pparx.com) which offers a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. PPARx brings together America’s pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations, and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that is right for them. Many will get them free or nearly free. Since its inception, PPARx has matched over 4 million Americans nationally to patient assistance program. In Hawaii alone, nearly 9,000 residents have been matched to at least one patient assistance program.

In addition, PhRMA sponsors www.BuySafeDrugs.info which provides information on safe, legal way that patients can save on prescription medications, educates patients on the risks of importing medicines, and explains why legalizing importation is bad public policy.

It is for all these reasons, PhRMA respectfully opposes passage of HB 7, H.D. 1.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country’s leading pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to inventing medicines that allow patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. PhRMA companies are leading the way in the search for new cures. PhRMA members alone invested an estimated \$39.4 billion in 2005 in discovering and developing new medicines. Industry wide research and investment reached a record \$51.3 billion in 2005.

⁵ Randall W. Lutter, FDA Associate Commissioner, Letter to Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, May 20, 2005.

⁶ William K. Hubbard, FDA Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning, Letter to CA Deputy Attorney General, August 25, 2003.



HB7
CPH
Friday, March 28, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Room 329

Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Senator Russell S. Kokubun

Senator David Y. Ige

March 27, 2008

Re: HB7 — Relating to the I-SaveRX Prescription Drug Program

In Support

According to a CBS News report:

It may come as no surprise that the pharmaceutical industry is the most profitable business in the country. American drug prices are the highest in the world, so more than a million Americans now buy their medications in Canada.

Personal import of prescription drugs is growing rapidly. Since the federal government won't take any action that opposes the interests of US drug manufacturers, it has fallen to the states to take action on behalf of their citizens.

Several states (Illinois, Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri and Vermont) have joined forces in a purchasing program that imports prescription medications from overseas. Recently, Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced that the State of Illinois will expand its innovative I-SaveRx drug importation program to state employees and dependents. The saving for employees and retirees alone is estimated at \$94.9 to \$112.9 million a year.

The program is voluntary, not mandatory. Those who can find an even cheaper way to purchase a particular medication can do that. Those who have no choice will benefit—particularly seniors, those with disabilities, the uninsured and the underinsured.

Through its expansion of the program Illinois expects to reduce its annual prescription drug costs and reduce, and sometimes even eliminate, co-payments for state employees and dependents.

Hawaii residents can reap the same benefits. Please pass this bill so that Hawaii can join other states in the I-SaveRx program.

Larry Geller, President


Kokua Council

testimony

From: manis [manis@lava.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 9:49 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony HB7

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMSUMER PROTECTION
Sen. Russell Kokubun, Chair
Sen. David Ige, Vice Chair

FRIDAY MARCH 28 9 AM ROOM 229

HB 7, HD1RELATING TO THE I-SAVERX PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM.

SUPPORT

I am Laura Manis and I wish to add to the support of the passage of HB7 HD1 for the following reasons.

Many families must chose between buying food or paying for their prescription drugs. Others take their drugs less frequently than prescribed or cut their pills in half, thereby jeopardizing their health. Many Medicare patients reach the 'doughnut hole' within a few months and have to pay the total costs of their medicines. In the last 10 years, drug companies have consistently been the most profitable companies with an average of 512 times more profit than the average Fortune 500 company.

The I-Save program includes 5 states that have negotiated with Canada for lower prices and have been doing this for the past 5 years with no repercussions from the Federal government.

It is managed by a very reliable company and backed by the state government of Illinois.

I understand that Hawaii has 228,000 individuals in Hawaii who currently do not have prescription drug insurance coverage or are underinsured.

The current state administration charged with negotiating lower Rx costs has shown no inclination to do this.

Laura G. Manis,
1350 Ala Moana Blvd, #1511
Honolulu HI 96814
Phone: 597-8838

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

THE SENATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Friday, March 28, 2008; 9:00 a.m.

LATE

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 7, HD1
RELATING TO THE I-SAVERX PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 7, HD1, which directs the Governor to establish the State of Hawaii's participation in the I-SaveRx Prescription drug program to provide residents with increased access to affordable drugs.

Many uninsured individuals in Hawaii had expected the Hawaii Rx Plus program to address the rising cost of prescription drugs with pharmaceutical company rebates negotiated by the State. However, such rebates have not been negotiated and, as a result, those without drug coverage have to bear exorbitant costs for brand-name drugs.

H.B. 7, HD1 would be another vehicle to address the problem of the high cost of prescription drugs. We urge passage of this bill and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Albert T. Hamai
1457 Ala Aolani Street
Honolulu, 96819

LATE

Testimony in support of HB7, HD1 to Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing, for hearing on Friday, March 28, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 229.

To Chair Russell S. Kokubun and Members of the Committee:

Aloha. My name is Al Hamai. On March 19, I appeared at the hearing of the Senate Health Committee and presented similar supportive testimony on HB7, HD1, as a citizen and a proud Democrat. I'm a proud Democrat because my Party has spearheaded continuing social, economic and educational changes in Hawaii.

In Y2004, this State Legislature adopted SCR 56, which urged the President and Congress to repeal the ban against government negotiating to reduce prescription drug prices. That was a bold statement in the face of the then-popularity of the President. But that was the right thing to do and I felt great as a citizen and a proud Democrat. We would not be here today if that unconscionable ban had been repealed.

Our Governor has had opportunities to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for our citizens. A couple of years ago our Governor stated dramatically that she will work with other states to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. To date she has absolutely nothing to show for her efforts. Also her inaction to fully implement Act 60 of the Y2007 legislature, enacted over her veto, to reduce prescription drug prices through a rebate system, has resulted in no real reduction of costs. Big talk, do nothing. So it is not surprising that her AG and her DHS raised cost and legalistic objections to HB 7, HD1 and lined up with PhRMA, which also raised legal and safety issues.

This bill simply directs the Governor to establish the State's participation in the I-SaveRx Program, which could result in savings of 25-30% in prescription drug costs, as the state of Illinois and others have done. Enactment of this bill will truly help the beneficiaries of this program, many who have very limited income to take care of their daily expenses. The merits of the bill are so clear that the State House passed this bill without a single vote in opposition on March 4.

Your approval of this bill will demonstrate that this Committee, the Senate and this Democratic legislature are willing to take a leadership role in reducing the cost of prescription drugs in spite of the opposition basically of the Governor and PhRMA, which may lose some of its huge profits. Fear of legalistic and cost arguments can lead to inaction. Bold social programs all withstand legal challenges. So please stand up for the social and economic good that this bill will bring. The alternative is to kill this bill and do nothing to reduce drug costs. Should you decide to kill this bill, I would be very disappointed as a citizen and a Democrat because you and my Democratic Party will have let me down on this very important social issue by doing nothing, just like the Governor. Please approve HB7, HB1 to reduce prescription drug costs and as the right thing to do as the leaders of the majority party. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Albert T. Hamai, citizen and proud Democrat