

Testimony of
Phyllis Dendle
Director of Government Affairs

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

March 7, 2009
8:30 am
Conference Room 329

SB 585 SD2 RELATING TO REMOTE DISPENSING PHARMACIES

Chair Yamane and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill which would provide greater access to medications and pharmacy services through remote dispensing.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill as currently amended.

We support remote dispensing because we think we will see improved compliance with drug therapy if patients have immediate access to their prescriptions. This secure technology will offer access to medication when a pharmacy is unavailable on island or is not open. It will be particularly helpful for our members on Lanai where there is no pharmacy. Currently many have to travel to Maui to get their prescriptions filled.

With a nationwide shortage of pharmacists it is not just geographically isolated locations that would not have a pharmacist or a pharmacy available. Sometimes it is time rather than location that makes it difficult for patients to get their prescriptions.

For example, increasingly Kaiser Permanente Hawaii is expanding the access to care for patients by extending the hours that clinics are open. In our smaller, more rural clinics such as those in Kahuku, Waimea, and Kapolei, we do not have a pharmacy located at the clinic. As a convenience for our members we have arranged for them to get their medication from local pharmacies. These pharmacies are not open the same hours as the clinic. However, we always have pharmacist at the hospital who could supervise the remote dispensing in these clinics.

With that in mind we especially support the amendments made by the Committee on Health which permit health maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 432D HRS to have remote dispensing in our facilities. This would be used exclusively for our patients getting treatment at our facilities.

We believe this will permit better service and access for KP members that we hope will translate into better medication compliance by patients and ultimately to their improved health.

Thank you for your consideration.



March 14, 2009

Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health

Re: S.B. 585, S.D.2 – Relating to Remote Dispensing

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., Room 329

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee on Health:

I am Chris Pablo, an attorney with Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, testifying on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates more than 6,600 locations in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Walgreens also operates 217 Take Care Health Clinics in 15 states within select Walgreens stores, employing Advance Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants.

Walgreens **supports the intent of** S.B. 585, S.D. 2, which authorizes remote dispensing pharmacies to provide medications to patients with health insurance coverage and allows remote dispensing pharmacies to dispense controlled substances. S.B. 581, S.D.2 makes amendments to authorize remote dispensing pharmacies at Chapter 432D health maintenance organizations for its members, without distance or insurance coverage restrictions.

Walgreens supports the intent of S.B. 585, S.D. 2 because it expands access to medications for those living on the remote outer islands, and allows those with health insurance to utilize this technology. However, Walgreens believes that the allowance of remote dispensing without geographical and socioeconomic restrictions on these islands should also be expanded to apply to all islands. Under the present law, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (“HRS”) § 461-10.5, remote dispensing pharmacies are not permitted within a five mile radius of another pharmacy, with certain exceptions, and can only provide medications to patients covered by QUEST medical coverage.

Walgreens believes that geographical and socioeconomic restrictions for remote dispensing systems hinder access to prescription drugs for Hawai‘i residents, and do nothing to ensure patient safety. HRS § 461-10.5 already contains patient safety provisions so that users will receive access to prescription drugs via a method that is safe and secure, in consultation with a pharmacist. Accordingly, Walgreens respectfully requests that the geographic and socioeconomic restrictions in HRS § 461-10.5 be removed to allow not only remote outer island residents, but all Hawai‘i residents the ability to obtain their prescription drugs in a safe, efficient and convenient manner.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

*Walgreen Co. Government and Community Relations 104 Wilmot Road, MS 1444 Deerfield, IL 60015
847-315-4653 FAX 847-315-4417 www.walgreens.com*

LĀNA`I WOMEN'S CENTER DBA LĀNA`I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142
Lāna`i City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-9196
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Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Conference Room 329
8:30 a.m.

The House Committee on Health

To: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair and
The Honorable Representative Sott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Diana V. Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE
Executive Director

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 585, SD 2
Relating to Remote Dispensing

LĀNA`I WOMEN'S CENTER DBA LĀNA`I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (LCHC) strongly urges the passing of HB 655. A common challenge faced by all healthcare providers is providing timely and quality healthcare to communities facing geographic barriers to access. Lāna`i is a community particularly affected by its remoteness and is an underserved population. There are no pharmacies on island. While we have the ability to dispense medicines to our patients, Lāna`i residents traveling to Oahu or any of the other neighbor islands with prescriptions ordered by non-LCHC providers are unable to have their prescriptions filled on Lāna`i. In instances when non-LCHC providers visit the islands - (dentist, psychiatrist, podiatrist, etc.) to provide care to Lāna`i residents, their patients are also not able to receive their medications prescribed by these healthcare professionals. In these instances, LCHC staff assist patients with setting up pharmaceutical accounts with their insurance company's mail order pharmacy. As you can imagine, this creates unnecessary hardship and inconvenience for many Lāna`i residents.

LCHC is working with a neighbor island pharmacy to install a remote dispensing pharmacy kiosk. Currently, this will allow a licensed pharmacist from another location the ability to dispense pharmaceuticals prescribed by a physician at another location – made possible by last year's Act 212 signed into law with the purpose to improve access to medications and pharmacy services by authorizing the operation of remote pharmaceutical drug dispensing machines in the state. As the law currently stands, the remote kiosk will be helpful in addressing the pharmaceutical needs patients enrolled in Quest and Medicaid – a help approximately 90% of all Lanai residents are not enrolled in either Quest or Medicaid! Additionally, the current law does not allow for the dispensing of narcotics.

HB 585, SD2 will allow Lāna`i residents, and residents of any other islands that do not have a pharmacy, to participate in Act 212. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I strongly urge you to pass SB 585, SD2 from this committee.

E Ola nō Lāna`i

LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA`I

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 17, 2009
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 585, S.D. 2, RELATING TO REMOTE
DISPENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dr. Elwin Goo, Chair of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to present written comments on behalf of the Board. The Board supports Senate Bill No. 585, S.D. 2 that would allow: 1) The utilization of a remote dispensing pharmacy on an island that does not have a permitted pharmacy or in remote areas where there are no pharmacies within a five mile radius of an existing pharmacy; 2) Allow a remote dispensing pharmacy located on an island that does not have a permitted pharmacy or a remote area where there are no pharmacies within a five mile radius to continue to operate in the same location if a pharmacy is subsequently established on the same island or not within a five mile radius of an existing pharmacy; 3) Allow the remote dispensing pharmacy on an island without a pharmacy or in a remote area where there are no pharmacies within a five mile radius to dispense drugs to patients with any health insurance coverage; 4) Allow the dispensing of controlled substances from a remote dispensing pharmacy; and 5) Allow a remote

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Tuesday, March 17, 2009
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dispensing pharmacy to be established at facilities operated by a health maintenance organization regulated pursuant to chapter 432D, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS").

The Board however, defers to the Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division, on the dispensing of controlled substances from a remote dispensing pharmacy as they are the appropriate state agency that has the authority over Chapter 329, HRS, the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

The Board supports the practice of remote dispensing and believes it is technology that should be available throughout the State so all residents of this State can be afforded improved access to prescription medications and pharmacy services to meet their healthcare needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 585, S.D. 2.

HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS (HARA)
AN AFFILIATE OF THE ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
C/O AFSCME, 888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 101
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TO: House Committee on Health

MARCH 15 2009

Fax 5868519

FROM: Bruce McCullough
HARA Legislative Committee, Chair

FOR: Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

RE: SB 585, SD 2, Relating to Remote Dispensing Pharmacies

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2009

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: RM. 329

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA represents over 21,000 retirees, members of numerous organizations and individuals. HARA is a chapter of the Alliance of Retired Americans (ARA), a national advocate for seniors and retirees with over three (3) million members.

HARA is in strong support of this proposed legislation.

This bill is very important for residents living in remote areas of our State that do not have pharmacies. For example, it is my understand that the island of Lanai has no pharmacy. Imagine the hardship this creates for these residents. A remote dispensing pharmacy would be wonderful for these consumers.

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

TO: House Committee on Health

MARCH 15 2009

Fax 586-8519

FROM: Bruce McCullough
PABEA Legislative CommitteeFOR: Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

RE: SB 585, SD 2, Relating to Remote Dispensing Pharmacies

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2009

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: RM. 329

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.

This bill is very important for residents living in remote areas of our State that do not have pharmacies. For example, it is my understand that the island of Lanai has no pharmacy. Imagine the hardship this creates for these residents. A remote dispensing pharmacy would be wonderful for these consumers.