



LATE

March 31, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306

Re: S.B. 967, S.D.2, H.D.2 – Relating to Controlled Substances
Hearing on Monday, April 1, 2009 at 11:00 a.m., Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

I am Mihoko Ito, 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 **supports** S.B. 967, S.D.2, H.D.2 because it makes Hawai‘i’s controlled substance laws consistent with federal law. Specifically, Section 5 of the measure will allow for the transfer of controlled substance prescriptions between pharmacies sharing a real-time, online database. This will allow for inter-island transfer of prescriptions, and enable improved pharmacy service for patients in Hawai‘i.

Walgreens also supports the amendments made in the most recent version of this measure by the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, relating to the identification information required prior to the release of a prescribed controlled substance. We note that we have worked on this language in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, Narcotic Enforcement Division.

S.B. 967, S.D. 2, H.D. 2 will allow for flexibility for practitioners and/or pharmacists to dispense controlled substances using one of several methods of identification verification, and to allow patient verification for mail order prescriptions through the initial registration process. We believe that this bill will make delivery of controlled substances safe and efficient, and also bring Hawai‘i’s legislation in line with that of other states.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.