

SB2810

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

by

Ronald T. Taniguchi, Pharm.D.
Director of Community Partnerships
College of Pharmacy, University of Hawai'i Hilo

Support for SB 2810 Relating to Prescription Drugs

Chairs Ige and Baker, Vice Chairs Green and Ige and Members of the
Committees:

The provision of medication therapy management (MTM) services by pharmacists is the formula for correcting the misuse and underuse of medications. SB 2810 begins to assemble the key components that are essential to ensuring that MTM can reach its full potential in delivering improved drug therapy outcomes and reducing the overall cost of health care services for the people of Hawai'i. The triad of (1) collaborative practice agreements with practitioners to ensure patient-focused care; (2) full access to patient healthcare records that result in better clinical decision-making, and (3) a payment methodology that recognizes pharmacists as providers of medical care are the cornerstones that can finally enable pharmacists to provide the services for which they are educated and trained.

SB 2810 does well in directly addressing (1) and (3), and (2) can be strengthened beyond simple pharmacy recordkeeping. Narrowing the scope to the QUEST program can avoid conflicts with the existing MTM requirements found in the Medicare Part D program.

I and other pharmacist practice faculty at the College of Pharmacy look forward to working with the Legislature and the Board of Pharmacy in crafting landmark legislation for Hawai'i inspired by the introduction of SB 2810.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

by

Ronald T. Taniguchi, Pharm.D.
Director of Community Partnerships
College of Pharmacy, University of Hawai'i Hilo

Support for SB 2810 Relating to Prescription Drugs

Chairs Ige and Baker, Vice Chairs Green and Ige and Members of the
Committees:

The provision of medication therapy management (MTM) services by pharmacists is the formula for correcting the misuse and underuse of medications. SB 2810 begins to assemble the key components that are essential to ensuring that MTM can reach its full potential in delivering improved drug therapy outcomes and reducing the overall cost of health care services for the people of Hawai'i. The triad of (1) collaborative practice agreements with practitioners to ensure patient-focused care; (2) full access to patient healthcare records that result in better clinical decision-making, and (3) a payment methodology that recognizes pharmacists as providers of medical care are the cornerstones that can finally enable pharmacists to provide the services for which they are educated and trained.

SB 2810 does well in directly addressing (1) and (3), and (2) can be strengthened beyond simple pharmacy recordkeeping. Narrowing the scope to the QUEST program can avoid conflicts with the existing MTM requirements found in the Medicare Part D program.

I and other pharmacist practice faculty at the College of Pharmacy look forward to working with the Legislature and the Board of Pharmacy in crafting landmark legislation for Hawai'i inspired by the introduction of SB 2810.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.