

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

LATE

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM:
GARY M. SLOVIN
ANNE T. HORIUCHI
MIHOKO E. ITO
CHRISTINA ZAHARA NOH

ALII PLACE, SUITE 1800 • 1099 ALAKEA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3196
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

TELEPHONE (808) 547-5600 • FAX (808) 547-5880
info@goodsill.com • www.goodsill.com

INTERNET:
gslovin@goodsill.com
ahoriuchi@goodsill.com
meito@goodsill.com
cnoh@goodsill.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator David Y. Ige
Chair, Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
Via Email: HTHTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Mihoko E. Ito

DATE: February 5, 2010

RE: **S.B. 2811- Relating to Pharmacies**
Hearing: Friday, February 5, 2010 at 2:55 p.m., Room 016

Dear Chair Ige 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 and offers immunization services in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In Hawai'i, Walgreens now has 9 stores on the islands of Maui and Oahu.

Walgreens submits comments regarding S.B. 2811, which requires all pharmacies and remote dispensing pharmacies to have the capacity to accommodate electronic prescriptions. Specifically, the bill requires pharmacies to have the capacity to maintain, accept and transmit prescription information electronically.

Walgreens generally supports the use of technology to improve the safety and well-being of its patients. However, Walgreens is concerned about the requirement that pharmacies be able to transmit prescription information to other providers electronically.

Walgreens presently has the capacity to maintain electronic prescription records, both locally and at a centralized location. Therefore, within its own system,

February 5, 2010

Page 2

Walgreens is able to record and maintain all of its prescription records electronically and does not have a problem with this language in the measure.

However, Walgreens believes that the requirement for providers to transmit prescriptions electronically cannot be accomplished within the present system. Walgreens is capable of transmitting prescriptions within its own system. However, for Walgreens to transmit prescription information from a Walgreens pharmacy to a provider outside of its system, its present practice is to do so by facsimile. This facsimile method is common practice, because providers have different systems that, due to their different technologies, are not capable of handling electronic transmission.

In short, there are present technological limitations to requiring electronic transmission of prescriptions. To be able to transmit the records in the true electronic format in which they are received via a physicians e-prescribing system, each system would need to be modified so they are able to communicate directly with one another.

For the foregoing reasons, Walgreens respectfully requests that language relating to the transmission of prescription information be removed.