

Testimony of
Phyllis Dendle
Director of Government Relations

Before:
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair

February 22, 2012
2:00 pm
Conference Room 325

HB 1965 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PHARMACISTS

Chair Herkes and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1965 which amends the law to designate what continuing education counts toward the licensure requirement for pharmacists in Hawaii.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

The proposed amendment removes uncertainty about what courses qualify to meet the continuing education requirement by removing the obligation of the Board of Pharmacy to consider for approval courses that are not approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy (ACPE). Considering for approval classes not approved by ACPE has been time consuming and challenging for the board. Because there are many courses available that are approved by ACPE it will improve the efficiency of the board to remove this unnecessary responsibility. This change will also spare pharmacist in Hawaii from taking courses that will not count toward their continuing education requirement.

Thank you for your consideration.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012
2:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1965, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR PHARMACISTS.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Todd Inafuku, member of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"), Chair of the Board's Laws and Rules Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1965, Relating to Continuing Education for Pharmacists. The Board supports this bill which proposes to amend the definition for "Continuing education courses" under Chapter 461, HRS, by clarifying the name of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education ("ACPE") and to delete reference to "continuing medical education courses that serve to improve patient safety and to maintain quality national standards in the prevention of medical errors".

ACPE is the recognized national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing education. ACPE's Continuing Education Provider Program is designed to assure pharmacists of the quality of continuing pharmacy education programs that:

- Promote the quality of continuing pharmacy education, thereby assisting in the advancement of the practice of pharmacy;

- Provide pharmacists with a dependable basis for selecting accredited continuing education; and
- Provide a basis for uniform acceptance of continuing education credits among the states.

Furthermore, the ACPE has collaborated with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and the American Nurses Credentialing Center Accreditation Program in offering “joint accreditation” of continuing education courses that improves patient care and at the same time streamlines the accreditation process. The goal of this “joint accreditation” is to support healthcare team-focused education. As a result, continuing medical education courses are already ACPE accredited through this program.

Consequently, recognizing ACPE accredited continuing education courses will ensure that pharmacists receive continuing education that will assist in the advancement of the practice of pharmacy and promote patient safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1965.