

Testimony of  
Phyllis Dendle

Before:  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Della Au Belatti., Chair  
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

February 13, 2013  
8:30 am  
Conference Room 329

**HB652 RELATING TO REMOTE DISPENSING**

Chair Belatti, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB652 which would remove the sunset clause from the law concerning remote dispensing. This would make permanent the Hawaii Revised Statutes sections 461-10.5, 461-14 and the definitions in 461-1 related to remote dispensing.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.**

We recommend that this law become permanent because there are already existing remote dispensing pharmacies in operation in the state that are providing access to medications for patients using this technology. If this sunsets, that access goes away for those patients, most of whom are in 340B federal and state assistance programs for the underserved.

Remote dispensing remains an affordable option for patients to obtain their medications, using technology. It does not replace "brick and mortar" pharmacies, but fulfills a need when these pharmacies are not available for immediate prescription needs such as after hours, weekends, and holidays, in the emergency room or with hospital discharges. It allows these patients can go home instead of searching for a 24-hour pharmacy in remote areas, especially on the neighbor islands.

Created in 2008 and subsequently amended, this law lays out specific requirements for operations outlining where these machines may be installed and what is required to provide full protection for patients who receive their medications via remote dispensing. The Board of Pharmacy has permitting authority and responsibility for the installation of remote dispensing machines. This law is meeting its purpose of providing safe access and convenience to patients to encourage them to be compliant with the prescriptions from their providers.

Thank you for your consideration



## HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH

55 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401  
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

**Wednesday, February 13, 2013 – 8:30 am  
Conference Room 211**

### **The House Committee on Health**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Executive Director of Government Relations

**Re: HB 652 Relating To Remote Dispensing  
Testimony in Support**

---

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Executive Director of Government Relations for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff.

HPH writes in support of HB 652 which proposes to make remote dispensing machines by a licensed pharmacy or pharmacist and its operations permanent by removing the sunset date. Remote dispensing machines serve an important and necessary function in the community by providing access to needed prescription drugs in a timely manner. A common challenge faced by all healthcare providers is providing timely and quality healthcare to communities facing geographic barriers to access. One of the strategies to overcome the challenge of delivering pharmaceuticals to remote areas is to utilize existing technologies such as *remote dispensing*. Remote dispensing allows a licensed pharmacist from another location the ability to dispense pharmaceuticals prescribed by a physician at another location. This serves to make access to health care less problematic, especially in rural locations where healthcare providers as well as pharmacies are limited or nonexistent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 13, 2013  
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 652, RELATING TO REMOTE DISPENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Mark Brown, Chair of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 652, Relating to Remote Dispensing, which would permanently allow remote dispensing by repealing the sunset date of January 2, 2014.

The Board discussed extending or repealing the sunset date and it was their consensus to support the repeal of the sunset date, as it will continue to allow pharmacies to provide service to patients in remote areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 652.

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2013 4:52 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** ronthi@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB652 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

**HB652**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: One of the arguments to approve remote dispensing machines five years ago was a shortage of pharmacists. The UH Hilo College of Pharmacy will graduate its third class of 80+ students in May. There is no longer a shortage of pharmacists in Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)