



HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Bellati, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB 652

Relating to Remote Dispensing

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 13, 2013, 8:30am, Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **supports** House Bill 652.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 12, 2013

To: **House Committee on Health**
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

RE: **TESTIMONY HB 652 RELATED TO REMOTE DISPENSING:**
Wednesday, February 13; 8:30am; Room 329

Submitted by: Richard P. Bettini, MPH, MS, President and Chief Executive Officer
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
Contact: 697-3457 or wcchc@wcchc.com

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of** HB 652 Related to Remote Dispensing.

For the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, which provides over \$100,000 in free medicines to patients each year, remote (pharmacy) dispensing has provided an efficient and effective way to help provide much needed medicines to the homeless and those with limited transportation options, the majority who suffer from multiple chronic conditions. It is more effective than hiring additional pharmacists which are in seriously short supply in rural areas. Medical control is assured as our systems are integrated with electronic medical records and telemedicine links.

This vital healthcare service makes use of digital capability and reduces the cost of serving low income people while making low cost pharmaceuticals available to the vulnerable populations being served.

The Health Center, along with other rural healthcare sites in Hawaii, has been allowed to use remote dispensing since 2009. The Act that provided this option is slated to be repealed on January 2, 2014, which would have serious consequences to our patients who have greatly benefited from this service.

We urge you to support HB 652, which would strike this repeal date so that remote dispensing can be made permanently legal in Hawaii. Our patients and our communities depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration.