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The Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

LATE

Tuesday, March 29, 2016
Conference Room 229; 9:00 AM

RE: HB 254 HD2 – Relating to Medicines - COMMENTS

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

CVS Health appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 254 HD2. Biologic medications represent the fastest growing segment of the prescription drug pipeline, in both numbers as well as cost. HB 254 HD2 would allow Hawaii statutes to recognize biosimilars in addition to brand-name biologics as exists today. As these follow-on drugs become more and more available, both biosimilars and interchangeable biosimilars alike promise to save consumers in Hawaii significantly over the cost of the brand-name biologics today.

The language contained in HD2 accurately reflects common biosimilars language we have seen elsewhere. In particular, we would like to note that the notification section of HD2, applicable upon the dispensing of an interchangeable biosimilar, fairly reflects agreed-to language reached in other states and therefore, CVS Health has no objections with HB 254 HD2.

CVS Health proudly operates as the largest pharmacy chain in Hawaii, under our Longs Drugs banner; offering our patients and clients a wide range of comprehensive, integrated pharmacy and healthcare related operations statewide including: Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) services (CVS Caremark), Specialty Pharmacy (CVS/specialty), Mail-Order and Retail Pharmacy (CVS/pharmacy/Longs Drugs), Retail Health Clinics (CVS/minute clinic) and a distribution center.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Eric P. Douglas