



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2145
RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing Date: February 6, 2018 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports HB2145, which is the consensus
3 recommendation of a working group requested by HCR164 SD1 SLH 2017. DOH generally
4 endorses the premise that medication synchronization may improve patient health, reduce health
5 care costs, and promote efficient health care operations. However, the department is unable to
6 comment on the time, effort, and complexity of implementing a medication synchronization
7 program in Hawaii, and must defer to other agencies.

8 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2145, RELATING TO MEDICATION
SYNCHRONIZATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. A similar measure, S.B. 2656, is also being heard by the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health on February 6, 2018. The Board supports the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.

This bill requires health insurance and hospital and medical service plans that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies. It includes reimbursement to a network pharmacy who may partially fill a prescription, if the prescriber or pharmacist determines the fill or refill to be in the best interest of the insured patient and the patient requests or agrees to less than a thirty days' supply to synchronize the insured patient's medications.

As this bill does not define "network pharmacy" and "contracted pharmacy," the Board hopes that these terms will not prohibit a pharmacy, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 461-14, from receiving reimbursement for the purpose of medication synchronization.

The Board understands and appreciates the Insurance Commissioner's concerns for creating reimbursement mandates in HRS title 24 and therefore defers to the Insurance Commissioner on sections 2 and 3 of the bill.

House Bill No. 2145
February 6, 2018
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2145.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2145, RELATING TO MEDICATION
SYNCHRONIZATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) appreciates the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2145, Relating to Medication Synchronization. My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department’s Insurance Division. The Department appreciates the intent of this bill, which is similar to S.B. 2656, and submits the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to facilitate synchronization of prescription medication dispensation.

This bill will encourage improved medication adherence rates for patients with chronic conditions. Better adherence and coordination may lead to improved health outcomes for patients, thereby helping to reduce healthcare costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 6, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: HB 2145 – Relating to Medication Synchronization

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2145, requiring the health insurance and hospital and medical service plans that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies.

HMSA participated in the interim medication synchronization working group to examine whether synchronization could be applied effectively and safely in Hawaii. While medication synchronization can lead to improved adherence for medication regimens for people with particular chronic conditions, we do note the need for appropriate management standards and review processes in order to determine the program's effectiveness to the member and the plan.

We offer the following suggested changes and clarifications for the Committee to consider:

- Section 2(a) - delete language pertaining to the “best interest of the patient,” to read:
"§431:10A- **Medication synchronization; proration; dispensing fees.** (a) Each individual or group accident and health or sickness insurance policy that provides prescription drug coverage in the State shall apply a prorated daily cost-sharing rate to prescriptions that are dispensed by a network pharmacy for less than a thirty-day supply ~~if the prescriber or pharmacist determines the fill or refill to be in the best interest of the insured patient for the purpose of medication synchronization and the patient requests or agrees to less than a~~ thirty-day supply.
- Section 2(b) - include “pursuant to subsection (a).” in order that override provisions are only related to medication synchronization.
- Suggest clarifying how this benefit would apply to medications in “unbreakable” packaging (e.g., creams, liquid, unperforated blister sheets, etc.).
- We also suggest including a sunset date of 2021 and recommend a request by the legislature to the plans to report on the overall effectiveness of medication synchronization.

We urge the Committee to also consider whether safeguards should be in place to prevent aggressive marketing practices in the form of medication discounts that would lead to members being enticed to change pharmacies multiple times within a short period and the impact that could have on medication synchronization (partial fills, etc.).

Thank you for allowing us to comment on HB 2145.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Vice-President, Government Relations



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

TO:
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2018
TIME: 8:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Government and Community Relations

Re: HB 2145 RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCRONIZATION

Position: SUPPORT

Chairs & Committee Members:

The HMA supports this bill.

Evidence shows that the more medications a person is taking, the less adherent they are. This is in part because they have to keep track of their refills and make multiple visits to the pharmacy for those refills. That's why people taking multiple medications for chronic conditions benefit from medication synchronization.

Plan members taking multiple chronic medications typically refill each of those medications on a different cycle – making multiple trips to the pharmacy. For example, they may refill one medication on the first of the month, but refill a second medication on the 12th, then refill a third the week after that. That's three trips to the pharmacy during each fill cycle.

By working with their pharmacist, that plan member can arrange to pick up all three refills on the same day each fill cycle. The process, which involves "short fills," to synchronize the medication can be challenging in the early stages as it may take a few refills of smaller quantities to get all the drugs aligned on the same refill date or "sync date."

From the sync date forward, the patient is scheduled to pick up all of their refills on the same day each fill cycle. The addition of new drugs to the regimen or other changes, such as an unexpected hospitalization, could de-sync the patient, which would then

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require re-synchronization. In many ways, synchronization is a continuous effort that must be monitored and maintained but one that has substantially positive implications for patients.

The long-term convenience of medication synchronization is popular with patients and leads to increased adherence to drugs for chronic conditions – positively impacting health outcomes. Evidence shows that patients who have synced their chronic medications are about 30 per cent more adherent than patients who are not in a medication synchronization program.

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Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HB 2145 – RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2145, which allows for a pharmacist to provide less than a 30-day prescription for the purpose of synchronizing a patient's medications.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Patients who are on multiple prescriptions with different fill times can create poor adherence to their medications with different fill dates. Synchronizing medications streamlines the process for patients so that they are able to re-fill all of their prescriptions on the same day each month, making it easier to maintain regular prescription drug use.

This measure reduces the burden of a patient and caregiver that has to make multiple trips to the pharmacy and make it more difficult to keep track of multiple medications. For people faced with chronic diseases and have limited mobility, this can become a barrier to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 5, 2018

TO: Representative John Mizuno
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Submitted Via Capitol Website

RE: **House Bill 2145 Relating to Medication Synchronization**
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room: 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Walgreen Co. ("Walgreens"). Walgreens operates stores at more than 8,200 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens now has 19 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

Walgreens **strongly supports** HB 2145, which facilitates medication synchronization by requiring health insurance plans that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies.

Medication synchronization allows a pharmacist to review patient medications and sync medication refills to all be picked up on a single day each month. Aligning refills can improve patient health by simplifying the patient effort needed to comply with medication therapies. Many patients who require long-term maintenance medications miss doses of their regular medications. Studies show that when the timing of medications is synchronized, medication adherence rates rise because patients can pick up their prescriptions on a single day.

Pursuant to 2017 House Concurrent Resolution 164, a working group was established which reviewed best practices for medication synchronization, including 90-day fills, pharmacist dispensing fees, patient copays, and recommend draft legislation for a medication synchronization program in Hawaii.

The group consisted of six members from the pharmaceutical groups, health insurance groups, and representatives from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and the Department of Health.

Research shows that medication synchronization has a direct and positive effect on patient adherence to their medication therapy of up to 50%. For these reasons, Walgreens supports medication synchronization programs as a proven method that improves adherence and simplifies the process for patients to obtain their necessary medication

We strongly support HB 2145 and ask the committee to pass the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

HB-2145

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:07:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments: