

SB2656

Measure Title:	RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION.
Report Title:	Health Insurance; Medication Synchronization; Prescription Drug Coverage; Pharmacies
Description:	Allows the synchronization of plan participants' medications. Requires plans, policies, contracts, or agreements that are offered by health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organization and provide prescription drug benefits, to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies for less than a thirty-day supply.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	BAKER, GABBARD, HARIMOTO, KIM, S. Chang, English, Espero, Galuteria, Nishihara, Ruderman, Taniguchi



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

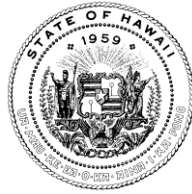
**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2656
RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION.**

SEN. ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 6, 2018 Room Number: 229

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB2656, 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.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

**TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018**

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION
SYNCHRONIZATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2656, 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 H.B. 2145, 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.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION
SYNCHRONIZATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 submit testimony on this measure. A similar measure, H.B. 2145, is also being heard by the House Committee on Health and Human Services on February 6, 2018. The Board appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.

This bill allows the synchronization of plan participants' medications. It also requires plans, policies, contracts, or agreements offered by certain entities to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies for less than a thirty-day supply. It includes reimbursement to a network pharmacy that 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.

In section 5, page 9, lines 15-18 of this bill, the Board respectfully requests the following amendment for clarification: "the interpretation and evaluation of prescription orders to adjust days' supply dispensed for purposes of ~~aligning~~ conducting medical synchronization for the insured patient's medications;" This amendment would more clearly define the purpose of adjusting a patient's medication in Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 461.

As this bill does not define “network pharmacy” or “contracted pharmacy,” the Board hopes these terms will not prohibit a pharmacy, as defined in HRS section 461-14, from receiving reimbursement for the purpose of medication synchronization.

The Board understands appreciates the Insurance Commissioner’s concerns for creating reimbursement mandates in HRS title 24 and therefore defers to the Insurance Commissioner on sections 2, 3, and 4 of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2656.



February 6, 2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health

Re: SB 2656 – Relating to Medication Synchronization

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2656, 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 SB 2656.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pono Chong".

Pono Chong
Vice-President, Government Relations



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

TO:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2018

TIME: 9:00AM

PLACE: Conference Room 229

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association

Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Lauren Zirbel, Government and Community Relations

Re: SB 2656 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

HMA OFFICERS

President – William Wong, Jr., MD President-Elect – Jerry Van Meter, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD

Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD

Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



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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.

HMA OFFICERS

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Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 5, 2018

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Submitted Via Capitol Website

RE: **Senate Bill 2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization**
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 9 a.m.
Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

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** SB 2656, 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 SB 2656 and ask the committee to pass the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.



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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SB 2656 – 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 SB 2656, 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.

Homebrew in Paradise

Bill Sumrow

740A Moowaa Street

808-834-2739

bill@homebrewinparadise.com



HB 2656 Relating to Small Craft Beer Producer Tax Credit

House Committee on EDB: Economic Development and Business
Friday, Feb 2, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. in Conference Room 309

Chair Cindy Evans, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business

Position: **Support**

My name is Bill Sumrow, I live in Honolulu, HI and I am the owner of Homebrew in Paradise, Oahu's only Homebrewing Supply Store, and a Founding Partner in Broken Boundary Brewery, LLC., a brewery in planning in the Kalihi Neighborhood of Honolulu, HI. Our brewery is planned to open in Q3/Q4 of 2018 with 6 employees.

I support HB 2656 because, as a brewery in planning, the financial investment is rather significant and having a tax credit to help reduce our costs will improve our chances of succeeding.

Hawaii's craft breweries are growing and incentives such as the small craft beer producers income tax credit help spur that growth. Our costs of production are high, with ingredients, equipment, and brewery modernization all contributing to significantly higher costs compared to mainland manufacturers.

Legislation that provides tax credits help Hawaii's breweries stay competitive with mainland manufacturers that ship their craft beer to Hawaii at price points that are often lower than our craft beer produced in Hawaii.

Hawaii's craft beer producers support the local economy with jobs that offer careers that allow our employees to live and raise families in Hawaii. We use locally grown ingredients in our beer such as tropical fruits, herbs and spices, and coffee which supports our local Hawaii farmers.

Expanding the craft beer we offer to customers is one of our goals. The small craft beer producers income tax credit will help us achieve that growth.

Homebrew in Paradise and Broken Boundary Brewery, LLC supports HB2656 with amendments.

Mahalo for your consideration. We urge you pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2656.

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:52:05 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dayna Wong-Otis		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:04:36 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Okamura		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:35:06 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elissa-Marie Brown		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2656

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 8:17:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Pierce		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB 2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pick up of multiple prescriptions. Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pick ups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pick ups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away. For my family, driving from the North Shore to town for appointments and then having to also coordinate pharmacy pick ups is an all day affair. SB 2656 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB 2656.

Thank you,

Molly Pierce

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:33:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Brown		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:40:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Brown		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support it.

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:41:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Brown		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Beverly Wong

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

My name is Beverly Wong and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward ensuring that many of our kupuna touched by cancer have the coordination and access to care that allows them to get the medication they need with less difficulty.

As a kupuna, I ask for your support on this bill. Medication synchronization it will make it easier for kupuna to obtain their medication prescriptions at one time without the problems of transportation and standing in line on different days. Most importantly, it may alert the pharmacist if there are conflicts in the prescribed medication and allowing for improved medication adherence, enhanced patient access, increased understanding of prescription drug use, and greater pharmacist oversight.

I urge you to support SB2656 for all Hawaii residents that require multiple prescription drugs as a result of a chronic disease. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,
Beverly Wong

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Gary Tanimitsu

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

My name is Gary Tanimitsu and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward ensuring that many of our kupuna touched by cancer have the coordination and access to care that allows them to get the medication they need with less difficulty.

As a kupuna, I ask for your support on this bill. I currently have a number of chronic diseases that I'm able to manage with medications. I consider myself fortunate enough to still have access to a car and am physically healthy enough to drive to the pharmacy at my convenience. I am too aware however, of friends of mine that are unable to get the medication they need in the time that they need it because they rely on family members or other friends for rides to the pharmacy due to being physically unable to drive or reliably walk to a bus stop.

I want to support this legislation because of the impact that this legislation can have for my friends, and possibly myself if I'm ever not physically able to drive at my convenience. Medication synchronization will make it easier for kupuna to obtain their medication prescriptions at one time without the problems of transportation access.

I urge you to support SB2656 for all Hawaii residents that require multiple prescription drugs as a result of a chronic disease. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,
Gary Tanimitsu

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Jenny Hausler, and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am writing to express my support for SB2656, which would allow pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month.

I have served as a caregiver to many family members that have suffered from cancer, including my husband and my sister. During the course of treatment, one of the big factors that cancer patients and their caregivers have to endure is the stress of coordinating care around this terrible disease, and knowing that there's still everyday life that has to be taken care of. Bills still need to be paid, and children and grandchildren still need to be cared for. The last thing you want to do is find out that you need to make several trips to the local pharmacy to get medication you need on a piecemeal basis.

As a caregiver, I want to make sure that so many other caregivers and cancer patients in our state can take the inconvenience of multiple trips to the pharmacist out of the way. Medication synchronization allows pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month. This will improve patient outcomes by improving medication adherence, enhanced patient access, increased understanding of prescription drug use, and greater pharmacist oversight.

I urge you to support SB2656, relating to medical synchronization. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,
Jenny Hausler

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Misty Figuera, and I am writing to express my support for SB2656 which would allow pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month.

I am currently a student at UH Hilo, and am also a recent cancer survivor. And as a twenty-one-year-old student who has a chronic disease, I am more than familiar with the fact that life doesn't stop when cancer and chronic illness comes knocking on the door. Bills still need to be paid, children still have volleyball games that need to be attended, and term papers still need to be written by a due date. Life is stressful in the first place – being sick only makes it worse. For those of us with busy schedules struggling to make it financially, the last thing you want to do is find out that you need to make several trips to the local pharmacy to get medication you need on a piecemeal basis.

Unfortunately, that is a real concern in my life. I'm in a place right now where I actually have to push back my doctor's appointments (for seeing my surgeon and working on treating my disease) six weeks because the pharmacy isn't able to better coordinate my prescriptions being filled.

I cannot begin to tell you how important this is for me. Medication synchronization allows pharmacists to coordinate all of a patient's prescription medications to be filled on the same date each month. This will improve patient outcomes like mine by improving medication adherence, enhanced patient access, increased understanding of prescription drug use, and greater pharmacist oversight.

I urge you to support SB2656 for myself and so many others that are in the same place I'm currently in. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,
Misty Figuera

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patrick Tran and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB 2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors' appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pickups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pickups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away.

SB 2656 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB 2656.

Thank you,

Patrick Tran

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stella Ye Eun Lee, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB 2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors' appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pickups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pickups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away.

SB 2656 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB 2656.

Thank you,

Stella Ye Eun Lee

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tyler Matayoshi, I work in the field of mental health and I am submitting my testimony in support of SB2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization. The passage of this bill would provide enormous relief to patients with serious and persistent mental illness by allowing them to pick up multiple prescribed medications at once.

Patients who present with serious and persistent mental illness experience a daily struggle to honor the day-to-day responsibilities others consider trivial. Those with diagnoses ranging from severe anxiety to depression to schizophrenia are often home bound and rely on medication just to step outside. This difficulty is compounded when they have multiple prescriptions with different and often strict pick-up days. It is not uncommon for them to spend an hour or more working themselves up to go outside, and picking up sorely needed medicine on a timetable is further stress they can ill afford. Medication synchronization would greatly reduce this stress by reducing these outings and allow them to focus more time on recovery.

Please support the passage of SB2656 for the sake of your constituents struggling with serious mental illness.

Mahalo,
Tyler Matayoshi

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sandra Watanabe and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB 2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, members of my family included, struggle to maintain some sort of familiarity in their daily lives during treatment. There is already stress of multiple doctors' appointments, the loss of stamina to accomplish work and family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. Trying to ensure that multiple medication pickups are also handled can reach the bounds of many families' ability to cope. Even those whose conditions are well maintained, still have to juggle multiple pickups for prescriptions whose renewals are not concurrent. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to a sense of normalcy. It would remove the stress of having to make many trips to a pharmacy that, in more rural areas, can be a long drive away.

SB 2656 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB 2656.

Thank you,

Sandra Watanabe

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB2656, RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alberto Rodriguez, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB 2656 Relating to Medication Synchronization. This bill would be a huge step in helping resolve a pressing problem in the daily lives of many patients with chronic illnesses - that of coordinating the pickup of multiple prescriptions.

Many patients, that I had the opportunity to speak with during Relay for Life events, struggle to maintain their daily routines while going into treatment. They are already stressed and anxious as a result of multiple doctors' appointments, physical therapy, missing work days, family obligations, and all the other worries that go along with a healthcare crisis. These patients should be able to get their medications in a single transaction. We know the value of time in a moment of crisis. We know how stressful and frustrating can be to pick up medications by piecemeal in multiple days. Medication synchronization provided in this bill would be a step to allow patients more time to focus on healing, family, and returning to their daily routine.

SB2656 would also reduce the instances in which a patient or their caregiver misses an important medication pick up due to a scheduling constraint. Please support medication synchronization and the health and wellbeing of your constituents by supporting SB2656.

Thank you,
Alberto Rodriguez

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:54:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Brown		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2656

SB-2656

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:40:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sue-Ann Yasuoka	Public Citizen	Support	No

Comments:

Please Support SB2656 Re: Medication Synchronization.

Medication Synchronization provides better patient adherence and convenience for the patient.

Sincerely,

SueAnn Yasuoka, Pharmacist