



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**LATE**

**Testimony COMMENTING on (HB 0667)  
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 12, 2019      Room Number: 329

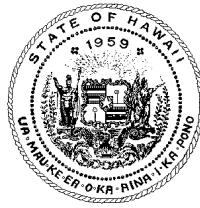
1    **Fiscal Implications:** None

2    **Department Testimony:** Regarding HB 667 HD1 PROPOSED, the Department of Health  
3    (DOH) defers to the Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division (PSD)  
4    regarding amendments to the Hawaii Controlled Substances Act and the administration of  
5    electronic prescriptions.

6            On the separate matter of prescription drug return or exchange which was the subject of  
7    the original measure, the DOH also respectfully requests the Committee to consider the language  
8    in HB 1443, Relating to Drug Disposal. One of the goals of the Hawaii Opioid Initiative is to  
9    increase the amount of prescription drugs taken back from the community by implementing at  
10    least two more year-round “take back” sites on Oahu as a step to expand the collection effort  
11    statewide. The language in HB 1443 provides the necessary structure for authorized collectors of  
12    controlled substances such as hospitals, clinics with on-site pharmacies, retail pharmacies and  
13    law enforcement agencies to operate a statewide take back system for disposal of unwanted  
14    controlled substances.

15            Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL (HB) 667, PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1  
RELATING TO HEALTH.

by  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

House Committee on Health  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 12, 2019; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 667, Proposed House Draft (HD) 1, which proposes to amend chapter 329-38(i), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), to be consistent with Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Currently, section 329-38(i), HRS, requires that both words and figures (e.g., alphabetically and numerically) be used to indicate quantity on all prescriptions for controlled substances, including electronic prescriptions. Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires only that the quantity be indicated on the prescription, with no specification as to how the quantity should be stated, allowing for the use of words or figures. The local healthcare community has informed PSD that many electronic prescription programs do not have the capability to use both words and figures because many of these computer programs were created to comply with the quantity regulations in federal law. As a result, if the Hawaii prescriber's electronic software does not allow for the use

of both words and figures to indicate a quantity, then that software cannot be used to prescribe controlled substances in Hawaii. Practically speaking, the result is that electronic prescriptions are rejected, and prescriptions are reissued in written form, by fax, or telephonically. The Proposed HD1 of HB 667 would allow for consistency with federal regulations and efficiency. Prescribers would be able to increase of use electronic prescriptions, improving convenience and timeliness for patients to receive their medication.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Specialist

Before:  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable John H. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

February 12, 2019  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

**Re: HB667 PROPOSED HD1, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB667 Proposed HD1, which specifies that where electronic prescriptions are permitted, either words or figures, not both, may be used to indicate quantity.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB667 Proposed HD1**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is the state's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for 255,000 members. Each day, over 4,500 dedicated employees and more than 600 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians come to work to care for our members at Moanalua Medical Center and 27 other clinic locations, providing high-quality care and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people in the communities we serve.

HB667 Proposed HD1 clarifies the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations) for electronic prescriptions by confirming that electronic prescriptions do not need to indicate quantity in *both* figures and words. This will simplify the process for these electronic prescriptions without posing the risks that quantity indications in both words and figures were intended to address when prescriptions are hand-written.

The requirement of both numeric and alphabetic quantity for prescriptions is intended to address two primary risks. First, requiring both numeric and alphabetic quantity reduces the risk of misreading quantities when the prescriber's handwriting is illegible. Second, the requirement is intended to prevent fraud by eliminating the possibility that a quantity could be increased by adding digits to a numeric quantity – e.g., turning 5 into 50 by adding 0. These issues are not present with electronic prescriptions placed in secure systems, which require multiple authentications before transmittal and cannot be modified once authenticated and transmitted. Therefore, the requirement for both numeric and alphabetic quantity in secure electronic prescriptions is not necessary.

The proposed amendments to HRS Section 329-38(i) to be consistent with the Uniform Controlled Substances Act will simplify Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i's electronic prescription process without exposing our patients to any increased risk of error or fraud.

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