

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:05 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2340, H.D. 2, RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIONS**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow for the use of a post office box for the purpose of prescription delivery so long as the physical location where an individual resides is on file with the dispensing pharmacy.

The Board appreciates the intent of this measure to allow post office boxes to be used for controlled substances prescriptions, as long as the physical address is readily accessible. This would save pharmacists time because they would not have to take the required steps to change the post office box number to a physical address.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

March 16, 2022
1:05 p.m.
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Re: HB 2340, HD2, Relating to Controlled Substances

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2340, HD2, which permits the utilization of post office boxes for controlled substance prescriptions by amending the definition of "address" under chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 2340, HD2 and requests a clarifying AMENDMENT.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Each day, more than 4,400 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to care for our members at our 20 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members, and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

With high prescription volumes and patient care responsibilities, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i regularly evaluates our pharmacy operations to ensure we eliminate waste and redundancy. **Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports HB 2340, HD2 because it increases workflow efficiencies by saving pharmacists time and making good use of technology, while maintaining safety and effective chain of custody of controlled substances.**

Currently, if a controlled substance prescription has a post office box address, before dispensing, pharmacists must 1) verify the patient's ID; 2) note the ID number on the prescription; 3) change the address. HB 2340, HD2 *permits* pharmacists to eliminate these steps *if* the physical address is already on file. The volume of prescriptions received with post office box addresses is significant, especially on the neighbor islands. Therefore, we believe HB 2340, HD2 would save pharmacist time and permits pharmacists to address other patient care responsibilities.

To eliminate any confusion, we request the following amendment to Section 1 to clarify that controlled substances are not being mailed or dispensed to a post office or rural office box.

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that permitting post office box and rural and highway contract route boxes addresses to be used as an option for prescriptions, as long as the physical location where an individual resides is on file, would provide more efficiency for pharmacists in having prescriptions reach consumers, rather than requiring consumers to take the required steps to change the post office box and rural and highway contract route boxes address to a physical address. The legislature further finds that making this change would promote more efficiency and effectiveness in the timely delivery of prescriptions to consumers.

~~— The purpose of this Act is to allow the use of a post office box for purposes of prescription delivery so long as the dispensing pharmacy has the physical location where an individual resides on file. The purpose of this Act is to amend the definition of "address" in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to make post office boxes and rural and highway contract route boxes permissible for a prescription to be considered valid, only if a physical address is readily accessible.~~

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