

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

February 14, 2022
1:15 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: SB 3382, Relating to Prescriptions

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3382, 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 SB 3382.

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 SB 3382 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. SB 3382 *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 SB 3382 would save pharmacist time and permits pharmacists to address other patient care responsibilities.

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