

## **Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 473 S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to exempt drug manufacturers, wholesale prescription drug distributors, and third-party logistics providers of home dialysate drugs or devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies, under certain conditions.

The Board is concerned that the passage of this bill will eliminate existing safeguards which ensure patient specific drugs being dispensed into the State meet all required safety standards. If passed, this bill could allow for an out-of-state manufacturer to ship dialysate drugs to a local distributor, who in turn will be allowed to dispense directly to a consumer without the product being evaluated or assessed. Exempting existing businesses who supply dialysate drugs from licensing requirements for this specific drug will remove protections which ensure patient safety.

The Board acknowledges the requirements for exemption set forth in section 1 of the bill, but has concerns about the ability to ensure the proposed requirements are met. As dialysate drugs are considered prescription drugs, and patient specific, dispensers, including pharmacists, play a vital role in ensuring the safety of patients.

The Board would like to highlight that Hawaii Administrative Rules section 16-95-2, states the definition of “Wholesale distributor’ means any person or entity in this State engaged in the transfer of prescription drugs to a person other than a consumer or patient...” If a business wishes to “dispense” prescription drugs or devices in this State to the end user or patient, the dispensing must occur under a permitted pharmacy and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. This process ensures patient safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



*An Affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care*

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Hawaii State House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Via Videoconference

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol

**SB473, SD1 HD1 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy**

Good morning, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

My name is Jocelyn Saccamago and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawaii and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

Liberty Dialysis **SUPPORTS the INTENT** of SB473, SD1 HD1 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy.

Patients who need dialysis may have the option of treating in the comfort of their own home rather than at an outpatient dialysis center. Many experts agree that home dialysis - either peritoneal or hemodialysis - is the best option for treating kidney failure whenever possible. That's because choosing home dialysis can mean greater scheduling flexibility, fewer food restrictions, and better outcomes. Home dialysis treatment can also be done longer and more frequently, so it's gentler on the body, meaning patients feel better and have an improved quality of life. The intent of SB473, SD1 is to help support these patients.

Thank you for your consideration.



## Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: **SB 473 SD 1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY**  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 2:00 p. m., Conference 329 & via Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7500 members stand in strong support of SB 473, SD1, HD1. This measure would exempt manufacturers, wholesale distributors, and third-party logistics providers of home dialysate drugs or devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies, under certain conditions.

As provided in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform adopted at the DPH State Convention on May 28, 2022, our policy is as follows:

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

We believe all people have an inherent right to live a healthy life in a clean and safe environment. We believe all people have the right to access high quality healthcare regardless of ability to pay. We believe the wellbeing of all of Hawai'i's people is of the utmost importance. We support the creation of a universal healthcare system that values people over profit, and follows best practices and current research to deliver holistic care covering both physical and mental healthcare. We support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to HR 1976, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All.

We support public funding to research and develop comprehensive public health solutions to the diseases and illnesses of today, as well as those of the future. We support public funding for reproductive healthcare. We support global health initiatives that prepare for and prevent the spread of infectious diseases around the world. We believe in harnessing the latest technology, including tele-health services, to remove barriers and increase access to care with a goal of reducing health disparities in Hawai'i's rural and underserved communities. [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://hawaiidemocrats.org)

To exempt manufacturers, wholesale distributors, and third-party logistics providers of home dialysate drugs or devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies, under certain conditions is consistent with the policies of the Democratic Party of Hawaii Health and Wellbeing Platform plank, to wit, that we believe in harnessing the latest technology to remove barriers and increase access to care with a goal, among other things, of reducing health disparities in Hawai'i's rural and underserved communities. Please support and pass this bill.

/s/ Melodie Aduja & Alan Burdick, Co-Chairs, DPH Environmental Caucus