



Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, February 10, 2023, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225
Hawaii State Capitol

SB473 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy

Good afternoon, Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

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 stands in **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** of SB473 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy. **We respectfully request this amendment – to delete the word “peritoneal” from line 11 on page 1 of the bill.** With this amendment, the bill would then apply to all forms of home dialysis which are currently used by Hawaii’s patients.

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.

Patients who qualify for home dialysis go through a rigorous training program which includes a home assessment and meetings with the patient’s entire dialysis care team. Once on home dialysis, patients continue regular check-in meetings with their care team at least once per month, support through a clinic, and 24/7 access to assistance should they experience issues. Depending on the type of home dialysis they are receiving, there are different drugs and medical devices involved that need to be regularly delivered to their home. Currently, Liberty/Fresenius transports drugs by making various stops in other states before they are shipped by barge to Hawaii and delivered to patient homes.

SB473 would help streamline delivery of home dialysis supplies and would allow for an inventory here in Hawaii by removing the requirement for a licensed pharmacist be on site in the warehouse. There are over twenty (20+) other states that already have this system in place for home dialysis drugs and devices. These other states include Hawaii’s “Ninth Island” of Nevada and our neighboring states of Washington and California, both of which are homes to internationally ranked medical centers and universities that lead the way for establishing best practices in healthcare.

Quality, safety, and security of supplies are ensured because all supplies are verified and checked by pharmacy teams at two-points in the process before they are shrink-wrapped together and transported to Hawaii for our patients.

Hawaii is so physically isolated from the rest of the United States and streamlining the supply chain in this way provides the state with a stronger ability to care for home dialysis patients. There are times when natural disasters and storms delay ships at sea from reaching Honolulu Harbor on schedule. There are times when patients need an immediate adjustment to their home dialysis prescription. There are even times when a product might have been damaged in transit. For all these unplanned events, having a streamlined delivery system that includes inventory on island ensures better access to needed supplies for our home dialysis patients.

Thank you for introducing this bill that will help home dialysis patients and the providers who care for them.



Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225
Hawaii State Capitol

SB473 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Glen Hayashida and I serve as the CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii.

The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii stands in **support of this bill with an amendment** to delete the word “peritoneal” from the bill wherever it appears. At home, Hawaii patients may have either home dialysis or peritoneal dialysis and this proposed amendment is suggested to ensure all home dialysis patients may benefit from this bill and not just those using the peritoneal method.

This bill provides an effective system to store and deliver essential home dialysis drugs and devices to patients statewide. It reduces costs while maintaining quality as indicated in the criteria contained in the bill. Before shipment to Hawaii, pharmacists are involved in vetting and preparing prescriptions for shipment to Hawaii. It would be redundant and costly to also require a pharmacist in Hawaii to perform the same functions that were completed before shipment. This bill will help ensure consistent access to home dialysis drugs and devices in Hawaii. Many other states follow this method for the distribution of dialysate drugs and devices.

The goals of the National Kidney Foundation are to eradicate chronic kidney disease (CKD) in Hawaii. By providing health education programs, clinical patient services, innovative research, and other efforts to prevent, treat, and manage chronic illnesses, including CKD, diabetes, high blood pressure, and gout. NKF Hawaii spearheaded the GFR Alliance in Hawaii to build knowledge and acceptance of the GFR (glomerular filtration rate) test. Hawaii was the first state in the Nation to have GFR readings automatically reported in lab results once a blood test is ordered. Every single day, the eGFR blood test result helps thousands of Hawaii residents by detecting kidney disease early while there is still time to establish healthier habits and prevent kidney failure. We serve as Hawaii’s repository for kidney testing data and analytics which is key to detecting and treating kidney disease.

Thank you.



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Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, February 10, 2023
1:00p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

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

Chair San Buenaventura 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 dialysis drugs, supplies, and devices from the license, registration, and permit requirements for pharmacies; provided that certain conditions are met.

This bill proposes to create an entirely new section, which exempts certain providers from the Board's statutes. It is unclear to the Board whether these amendments will apply to in-state or out-of-state prescription wholesale distributors, manufacturers or third-party logistics providers or both. The Board requests clarification on the purpose for such an exemption.

Exempting existing businesses who supply prescription drugs and medical supplies and devices from licensing requirements for specific drug and medical supplies will remove protections, which ensure patient safety. Exempt businesses will not: be required to have their facilities inspected; have to confirm that appropriate storage requirements are met; have to acknowledge and confirm that proper records are kept. The requirements for licensure, including inspections ensure compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes chapters 328 and 461. Again, these requirements are instrumental in protecting the consumers of Hawaii.

It is also unclear why a wholesale prescription drug distributor, manufacturer or third-party logistics provider would "dispense" products directly to the patient when 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

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

S.B. 473

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prescription drugs to a person other than a consumer or patient...” If an out-of-state business wishes to “dispense” prescription drugs or devices into this State directly to the end user or patient, then the dispensing must occur under a permitted pharmacy and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-473

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:06:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JON KOBAYASHI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB473 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy

Hearing Date: February 10, 2023 (Friday)

Time: 1:00 pm in Conference Room 225

Hawaii State Capitol

TO: The Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and

Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

FROM: Jon Kobayashi

SUBJECT: Support bill with one amendment

My name is Jon Kobayashi and I am a home hemodialysis patient. I am writing to ask you to **please amend this bill to cover ALL methods of home dialysis** and not just the peritoneal method.

At home, I do “home hemodialysis” (not “peritoneal” dialysis). Home hemodialysis uses a method much like in-clinic dialysis. Home hemodialysis involves having a smaller, portable hemodialysis machine called NxStage. I went through a training program before I was approved to do home hemodialysis and have regular meetings with my care team as well as 24/7 access to help if needed. Every month, a prescription order is submitted to refill the supplies I need for home hemodialysis and it takes 14 days for the order to arrive. Having the opportunity and flexibility of doing home hemodialysis has improved my quality of life. I work full time and having the ability to do home hemodialysis versus in-center dialysis has made a huge difference in my everyday life.

Thank you, Senators, for introducing this bill. It lets Hawaii home dialysis patients enjoy the same supply delivery system that other states have in place for their patients. It means so much for all us on home dialysis to know that your Senate bill when passed will allow for a cost-effective, quality-controlled, inventory of home dialysis supplies to be in state and ready for same or next day delivery in case of emergency or if we need immediate adjustment to our supplies due to a change in our health status.

Hawaii State Legislature
Ka 'Aha'ōlelo Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino
Hearing on February 10, 2023; Friday
1:00 pm in Conference Room 225

SB473 Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Aloha mai kākou Senators San Buenaventura, Aquino, Moriwaki, Shimabukuro, and Awa. My name is Kalani Pagan and my ohana and I thank all of you so much for hearing this very important legislation today in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

Before you vote to pass it, I respectfully request that one amendment be made. Could you please amend it by DELETING THE WORD PERITONEAL from it? This is because the word “peritoneal” describes only one type of “home dialysis”. Home dialysis also includes home “hemodialysis” which is the type of home dialysis I am on.

I live on Molokai and being on a Neighbor Island means deliveries of everything usually take a little longer than they do to Oahu. For delivery of dialysis supplies to my front door from the Continent, it takes three weeks. There was one time I almost ran out of a dialysis solution I needed and could not wait three weeks for a new order. When that happened, I was so grateful for the clinic’s help with providing supplies! But, I had to drive 17 miles to the clinic to pick it up and then 17 miles back home. That experience made me realize how vital and convenient home delivery of dialysis supplies is for me.

Every month, dialysis supplies are delivered directly to my home. This bill will let qualified, licensed logistics and distribution companies in Hawaii maintain an inventory of home dialysis drugs and devices for immediate delivery without having to be treated like a pharmacy which they are not. It is what other states already do with much success and compassion to support their home dialysis citizens. For me on Molokai, this bill means that if I ever almost run out of something again, I can receive virtually overnight delivery directly to my home of that needed item. This would be a godsend!

I am the only school librarian at Maunaloa Elementary School on the West side of Molokai. I also serve as school’s tech coordinator and Hawaiian Studies teacher. We have the most outstanding students in Hawaii and I hope you will visit us one day! Thanks to home hemodialysis, I am able to work and support our students to the best of my ability. Home hemodialysis gives me a fuller life with more energy.

Please amend this bill by deleting the word peritoneal from it so that those of us on home hemodialysis may also benefit from it. Thank you for caring about Hawaii’s home dialysis citizens.

Ke Akua pū!