

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1165

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 16, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 951, H.D. 2,  
S.D. 1

RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.  
**ACT 065**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on MAY 16 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025  
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 065  
H.B. NO. 951  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that appropriate, timely  
2 pain management is an integral part of ensuring high quality,  
3 patient-centered health care. As the rising danger of opiates  
4 became clear, the legislature acted to put guardrails in place  
5 to protect patients from the harmful effects of overprescribing,  
6 long-term use, and addiction. However, the legislature  
7 recognizes the need to balance these protections with the need  
8 for timely patient access to appropriate pain management.  
9 Therefore, there is a need to remove barriers to short-term  
10 opiate prescriptions while maintaining protections against  
11 overprescribing and patient misuse.

12       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to allow a patient  
13 who has been seen in person by a health care provider to be  
14 prescribed a three-day supply of opiates via telehealth by a  
15 physician within the same medical group.

16       SECTION 2. Section 453-1.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:



1       "(c) Treatment recommendations made via telehealth,  
2 including issuing a prescription via electronic means, shall be  
3 held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in  
4 traditional physician-patient settings that do not include  
5 [+]an[+] in-person visit but in which prescribing is  
6 appropriate, including on-call telephone encounters and  
7 encounters for which a follow-up visit is arranged. Issuing a  
8 prescription based solely on an online questionnaire is not  
9 treatment for the purposes of this section and does not  
10 constitute an acceptable standard of care. For the purposes of  
11 prescribing opiates or certifying a patient for the medical use  
12 of cannabis, a physician-patient relationship shall only be  
13 established after an in-person consultation between the  
14 prescribing physician and the patient[-]; provided that a  
15 patient who has been seen in person by a health care provider in  
16 the same medical group as the prescribing provider authorized  
17 pursuant to section 329-33, may be prescribed an opiate  
18 prescription for a three-day supply or less via telehealth."

19       SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
2       provided that the amendments made to section 453-1.3(c), Hawaii  
3       Revised Statutes, by section 2 of this Act shall not be repealed  
4       when that section is reenacted on December 31, 2025, pursuant to  
5       section 8 of Act 107, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.



H.B. NO. 951  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 16th day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. L. I.', written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 951, HD 2, SD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 21, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

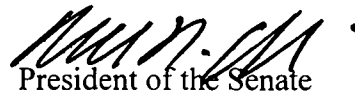


Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 4, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate  
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate