



March 11, 2025

[submitted electronically via: capitol.hawaii.gov]

The Honorable Greg Takayama
Chair, Committee on Health
Conference Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1509 SD1 Relating to Prescription Drugs – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the Committee on Health:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) supports [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1509](#), which will protect Hawai'i patients' access to their medications and their trusted health care professional, the pharmacist. By preserving pharmacists' crucial role in ensuring patients' access to their medications, we can ensure the people of Hawai'i receive the best possible healthcare.

As a result of the predatory practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), patients' access to medications from their local pharmacist across the country has declined¹, taxpayer dollars have been funneled into corporate profits², and generationally owned community pharmacies have been driven out of business.³ A study found that PBM tactics forced Oregon Medicaid to overpay \$1.9M on a single drug, where PBMs marked up the drug by 800 percent.⁴ Appropriate government oversight is necessary to address the PBM industry's misaligned incentives, prioritizing profits over patients. SB 1509 would address many underlying issues that harm patients and pharmacists by ensuring sustainable reimbursement to pharmacies. This requirement will help keep local community pharmacy doors open and protect access to care, particularly for populations in rural and underserved Hawai'i communities.

For these reasons, APhA supports SB 1509 and respectfully request your "AYE" vote. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Senior Advisor for State Government Affairs, by email at mmurphy@aphanet.org.

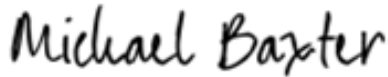
¹ Rose J, Krishnamoorth R. Why your neighborhood community pharmacy may close. *The Hill*. Available at <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/530477-why-your-neighborhood-community-pharmacy-may-close>

² 3 Axis Advisors. Analysis of PBM Spread Pricing in New York Medicaid Managed Care. Available at <http://www.ncpa.co/pdf/state-advoc/new-york-report.pdf>

³ Callahan C. Mom-and-pop pharmacies struggle to hang on. *Times Union*. Available at <https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/Mom-and-pop-pharmacies-struggle-to-hang-on-16187714.php>

⁴ <https://oregonpharmacy.org/2022/10/27/oregon-report/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Baxter". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Baxter" clearly legible.

Michael Baxter

Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Representative Terez Amato
Representative Cory M. Chun
Representative Lisa Marten
Representative Ikaika Olds
Representative Jenna Takenouchi
Representative David Alcos III
Representative Diamond Garcia

About APhA: APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care and enhance public health. **In Hawai'i, with 900 licensed pharmacists and 1,470 pharmacy technicians, APhA represents the pharmacists and student pharmacists that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents.** As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.