

**From:** [Joel Fischer](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2205, SD1; WAM; 2/23/10; 10:10AM; Rm 211  
**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2010 1:38:18 PM  
**Importance:** High

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SB2205, Relating to EUTF Trust Fund (Opting out of mail order meds)  
WAM; Chair, Sen Mercado-Kim

**PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!**

Passage of this bill will give tens of thousands of state workers and retirees the OPTION of vastly improving the quality of their lives.

I can understand the need of the EUTF to attempt to conserve money. But the use of the Informed RX company is short-sighted and extraordinarily frustrating for many EUTF members.

The company is absolutely incompetent. Phone calls are never returned, no matter how often a return call is promised.

The company has devoted only one person to be on-site here in Hawai`i to handle hundreds of complaints. She is overwhelmed.

The company's operations are spread out in different locations, so a problem cannot be resolved with one call. Some of the operations do not work 24/7, despite the "availability" of certain representatives at all times.

It took the company three months to correctly get some of my medications to me. THREE MONTHS! They kept telling me the doctor hadn't faxed in my prescription, but I saw the prescriptions that the doctor had to fax in several times!

It takes multiple phone calls to solve even the smallest problems. Ten calls per problem is not unusual.

All profits for this program go out of state. Why cannot we find some provider in state to sell us our medications? Did you know Walmart sells many generics at a lower price than Informed RX? So would Costco and other providers if given the chance.

My mailbox is in an outdoor area directly in the sun. Since I do not know exactly when the medications will arrive, and I have a number of activities, my meds sometimes have to sit in the sun for seven hours until I can retrieve them! This can play havoc with the effectiveness of the medications.

The list goes on and on. PLEASE give me and my fellow workers and retirees the option of buying locally.

Thank you so much for passing this bill.

Aloha, joel

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"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."

Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."

Winston Churchill

**COMMENTS**

**SENATE BILL 2205, SD 1**

**RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

DATE : Thursday, February 23, 2010

TIME : 10:10 a.m.

PLACE : Conference Room 211  
State Capitol

**COMMENTS FROM:**

Paul K. Ferreira  
316 Ainaola Drive  
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February 19, 2010

Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Chair and Members  
Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Senate Bill 2205, SD 1, Relating To Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

Aloha Senator Kim and Members:

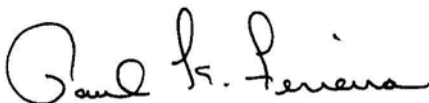
I am a current employee with the County of Hawai'i, with 27 ½ years of service and strongly support the passage of SB 2205, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF), that seeks to allow individual beneficiaries enrolled in a Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund health benefits plan to opt out of any requirement to purchase prescriptions by mail order.

During these hard economic times, I am appalled that the State of Hawai'i has opted to require its government employees to purchase their medication from a mainland company through this mail-order program, forsaking the **local pharmacies**. The Governor and the Legislature keeps sending the message that we need to spend locally and support local businesses, yet this ludicrous mail-order drug program was accepted by the EUTF Board. What message is the State of Hawai'i sending to the students that are enrolled in the University of Hawai'i College of Pharmacy, we want to educate you in this honorable profession, but we do not support local pharmacies.

It has been my experience in refilling a prescription for maintenance drugs that the InformedRX company, operates fraudulently, outside of the information that was passed on to members. There representatives took it upon themselves, with no input from me to contact my physician and change my medication from a Preferred Drug to a generic drug, that in my research is not the same. Then when confronted by me, their representative stated falsely in writing that it was my physician that made the change, not their company. Additionally, because of the delay in processing the order (which was placed well in compliance of their re-order deadlines), because the company was altering the prescription, my medication was delayed causing me to be without the medication for a week.

Another issue I have with the current company is the method in which medication is shipped to a member. The medication is not in any type of tamper proof bottle and is packed simply in a plastic U.S. Postal envelope, that can easily be accessed and the medication tampered with.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns and strongly urge you to pass this legislation.



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