

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pharmacy benefit  
2 managers are administrators of prescription drug programs and  
3 are responsible for developing and maintaining formularies and  
4 other clinical management programs, processing prescription drug  
5 claims for insurance companies or corporations, and negotiating  
6 contracts with pharmaceutical manufacturers. Pharmacy benefit  
7 managers also perform utilization reviews, manage clinical  
8 programs targeted to specific disease states, and operate  
9 pharmacies, including mail order and specialty pharmacies. Over  
10 the past decade, the role of pharmacy benefit managers in the  
11 delivery of health care has increased due to a variety of  
12 factors, including coverage expansions under the medicare Part D  
13 prescription drug benefit and the federal Affordable Care Act  
14 and an increase in prescription drug spending that has motivated  
15 commercial health plans and self-insured employers to outsource  
16 the management of their spending on outpatient prescription  
17 drugs.



1           The legislature further finds that the actions of pharmacy  
2 benefit managers can have wide-ranging impacts on pharmacies and  
3 consumers in Hawaii, particularly on consumers in rural areas  
4 who may have limited access to pharmacies within a pharmacy  
5 benefit manager's network and local independent pharmacies.  
6 Despite these potential impacts, pharmacy benefit managers are  
7 not currently required to be registered. The legislature  
8 additionally finds that increased transparency is needed  
9 regarding many aspects of pharmacy benefit management, including  
10 pharmacy benefit managers' relationships with pharmaceutical  
11 companies, formulary creation, and evidence of rebates provided  
12 to health plans in the State.

13           Finally, the legislature notes that prescription drugs are  
14 a major factor of the spiraling increase in health care costs,  
15 of which pharmacy benefit managers are a contributing factor.  
16 Giving clear authority to the insurance commissioner to regulate  
17 pharmacy benefit managers is therefore an important first step  
18 toward regulating this industry and is necessary to provide  
19 transparency and ensure adequate consumer protection.





1 (2) A health program administered by the State in the  
2 capacity of a provider of health coverage; or

3 (3) An employer, labor union, or other group of persons  
4 organized in the State that provides health coverage  
5 to covered persons employed or residing in the State.

6 "Covered entity" shall not include any plans issued for coverage  
7 for federal employees or specified disease or limited benefit  
8 health insurance as provided by section 431:10A-102.5.

9 "Covered person" means a member, policyholder, subscriber,  
10 enrollee, beneficiary, dependent, or other individual  
11 participating in a prescription drug benefit plan.

12 "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation,  
13 organization, or other business entity.

14 "Pharmacy benefit management" means:

15 (1) Any of the following services provided with regard to  
16 the administration of pharmacy benefits:

17 (A) Mail service pharmacy;

18 (B) Claims processing, retail network management, and  
19 payment of claims to pharmacies for prescription  
20 drugs dispensed to covered persons;



- 1 (C) Clinical formulary development and management
- 2 services;
- 3 (D) Rebate contracting and administration;
- 4 (E) Certain patient compliance, therapeutic
- 5 intervention, and generic substitution programs;
- 6 or
- 7 (F) Disease management programs involving
- 8 prescription drug utilization;
- 9 (2) The procurement of prescription drugs by a pharmacy
- 10 benefit manager at a negotiated rate for dispensation
- 11 to covered persons in the State; or
- 12 (3) The administration or management of prescription drug
- 13 benefits provided by a covered entity for the benefit
- 14 of covered persons.

15 "Pharmacy benefit manager" means any person that performs  
16 pharmacy benefit management, including but not limited to a  
17 person or entity in a contractual or employment relationship  
18 with a pharmacy benefit manager to perform pharmacy benefit  
19 management for a covered entity.



1 "Prescription drug benefit plan" means a health insurance  
2 plan offered by a covered entity that includes coverage for  
3 prescription drugs.

4 **§ -B Applicability.** This chapter shall apply to any  
5 pharmacy benefit manager that provides pharmacy benefit  
6 management services to covered persons who are residents of the  
7 State.

8 **§ -C Registration required.** (a) Notwithstanding any  
9 law to the contrary, no person shall act or operate as a  
10 pharmacy benefit manager without first obtaining a valid  
11 registration issued by the commissioner pursuant to this  
12 chapter.

13 (b) Each person seeking to register as a pharmacy benefit  
14 manager shall file with the commissioner an application on a  
15 form prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall  
16 include:

17 (1) The name, address, official position, and professional  
18 qualifications of each individual who is responsible  
19 for the conduct of the affairs of the pharmacy benefit  
20 manager, including all members of the board of  
21 directors; board of trustees; executive commission;



1 other governing board or committee; principal  
2 officers, as applicable; partners or members, as  
3 applicable; and any other person who exercises control  
4 or influence over the affairs of the pharmacy benefit  
5 manager;

6 (2) The name and address of the applicant's agent for  
7 service of process in the State; and

8 (3) A nonrefundable application fee of \$140.

9 **§ -D Annual renewal requirement.** (a) Each pharmacy  
10 benefit manager shall renew its registration by March 31 each  
11 year.

12 (b) When renewing its registration, a pharmacy benefit  
13 manager shall submit to the commissioner the following:

14 (1) An application for renewal on a form prescribed by the  
15 commissioner; and

16 (2) A renewal fee of \$140.

17 (c) Failure on the part of a pharmacy benefit manager to  
18 renew its registration as provided in this section shall result  
19 in a penalty of \$140 and may cause the registration to be  
20 revoked or suspended by the commissioner until the requirements  
21 for renewal have been met.



1           **§ -E Penalty.** Any person who acts as a pharmacy benefit  
2 manager in this State without first being registered pursuant to  
3 this chapter shall be subject to a fine of \$500 for each  
4 violation.

5           **§ -F Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt, amend, or  
6 repeal rules pursuant to chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of  
7 this chapter."

8           SECTION 3. In codifying the new sections added by section  
9 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
10 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
11 the new sections in this Act.

12           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.





**Report Title:**

Pharmacy Benefit Managers; Pharmacy Benefit Management;  
Registration; Insurance Commissioner

**Description:**

Requires pharmacy benefit managers to register with the  
insurance commissioner. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

