



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

By

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and

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HB 659 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 659. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 659, which establishes permitting and education requirements for pharmacists performing certain diagnostic tests or tests waived pursuant to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). This bill expands the definition of “practice of pharmacy” to include the performance of certain diagnostic or CLIA-waived tests.

Pharmacists in the State of Hawai'i are currently permitted to perform certain drug therapy-related tests under the definition of “practice of Pharmacy” in section 461-1, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. CLIA-waived tests are simple and non-technical. They are FDA-approved, apply methods that are accurate and intuitive, the likelihood of error is negligible and, if performed incorrectly poses no reasonable risk of patient harm. New developments in point of care testing technology have significantly broadened the number of available CLIA-waived tests. Subsequently, expanding pharmacists' performance of any aspect of CLIA-waived tests can contribute to improving patient care outcomes.

Offering CLIA-waived testing for multiple services including medication management, health wellness and disease prevention, infectious disease screening, chronic illness screening, chronic care management can increase access to health care and improve public health. Based on test findings, pharmacists can help patients avoid adverse drug interactions, refer patients to their primary care providers or health care centers, educate patients about chronic disease risk factors and preventive health measures, and assist patients to undertake risk reduction strategies.

As the only College of Pharmacy in the State of Hawai'i, our mission is to educate pharmacy practitioners and leaders who will improve health in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific through education, research and service. We prepare our student

pharmacists to serve patients in pharmacies and as members of inter-professional health care teams. As their role has evolved to encompass a greater focus on the provision of services, pharmacists should be permitted to perform CLIA-waived tests that enhance their contribution to patient care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 659.