



# 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 Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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and

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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

#### HB 2553 HD1 – RELATING TO PHARMACISTS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2553 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) feels strongly that an appropriate regulatory scheme is currently in place in the State for pharmacy interns to provide vaccinations as proposed in HB 2553 HD1.

Following is a summary of information which we feel supports this:

1. Applications for pharmacy intern permits are reviewed and approved by the Board of Pharmacy.
2. Pharmacy intern permits are granted to pharmacy students or graduates of an American Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited pharmacy school, who meet eligibility requirements set forth by the BOP. There are also specific requirements for foreign-educated pharmacy graduates. ([Require-Instruct-App-for-Pharmacy-Intern\\_04.21R.pdf \(hawaii.gov\)](#))
3. Pharmacy interns associated with the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at the UH Hilo are required to earn a nationally recognized immunization certification (same one that licensed pharmacists earn) in order to vaccinate. This certification is available to all pharmacy interns in the US.
4. Pharmacy interns are required to be supervised by a licensed pharmacist when they are performing services, such as vaccinations. This is covered in the Hawai'i Administrative Rules of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs 16-95-85 (scope of practice of a pharmacy intern) and 16-95-79 (supervision by a registered pharmacist) which both specify that pharmacy interns shall at all times be under the immediate supervision of a licensed or registered pharmacist.

5. Current practice in the DKICP limits a maximum of two pharmacy interns being supervised by a licensed pharmacist at a given time. This 2:1 intern to pharmacist ratio is compliant with Hawai'i state and federal laws, and accreditation standards for pharmacy education.

The ability of pharmacy interns to vaccinate is essential for their professional development and future employment. Most pharmacies in the US expect contemporary pharmacy graduates to be able to vaccinate from their first day of employment, thereby making the ability to master this expertise as a pharmacy intern essential for positioning our graduates for future employment.

Pharmacy interns in Hawai'i and across the nation routinely perform vaccinations when they are on clinical rotations for their pharmacy practice experiences, and as part of community outreach activities. During the pandemic, pharmacy interns were integral to the effort to get the public vaccinated and the workflow for many pharmacies now depend on pharmacy interns to help vaccinate patients.

In summary, regulatory schemes and practices are already in place to support the ability of pharmacy interns to safely and effectively vaccinate the public. The ability to continue these efforts is beneficial to both the people of Hawai'i, as well as to the career and professional development of pharmacy students who are trained in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2553 HD1.