



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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2553 HD2 – RELATING TO PHARMACISTS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2553 HD2. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2553 HD2, which authorizes pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older; pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen; and pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

HB 2553 HD2 essentially extends the vaccination services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024. Passage of HB 2553 HD2 will ensure that the vaccination services provided by pharmacists, along with pharmacy interns and technicians under their supervision, can continue in Hawai'i after the federal emergency authorization ends. It is important to note that even when working under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, the pharmacy interns and technicians have been and will continue to be required to have specialized training to administer the vaccinations. Moreover, as different types of vaccines become available and recommended for use in children by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, they will also be covered through this legislation.

The ability to leverage the accessible vaccination services of pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians for children is significant. It has been reported that more than 90% of Americans live within 2 miles of a community pharmacy, and annually, Americans visit their pharmacy 35 times, as compared to 4 visits to their primary care provider. Since the pandemic, members of the public and other health care providers have come to depend on pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians to provide their vaccinations. This accessibility is important because childhood vaccination rates

have been decreasing, eliciting public health concerns as children and communities have become more vulnerable to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

In summary, passage of HB 2553 HD2 will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to provide vaccination services for children, which families and communities across Hawai'i need and have come to expect. Please allow us to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people of Hawai'i by passing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2553 HD2.