

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Friday, January 29, 2010
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2464, RELATING TO PRACTICE OF
PHARMACY.**

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dr. Elwin Goo, Chair of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on this bill that would allow a Hawaii licensed pharmacist to administer immunizations to persons nine years of age and older with parental consent.

I would like to preface my comments by informing the Committee that the Board has not yet reviewed this bill, which is scheduled for discussion at the Board's next meeting on February 18, 2010. It is at this meeting that all proposed legislation regarding amendments to Chapter 461, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are slated to be addressed in a public forum to which all interested parties have been invited.

The Board, when it meets, will need to consider if parental consent is sufficient or if a pharmacist should also require a valid prescription from a licensed physician in order to administer immunizations to a child nine years of

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age or older as this will signify that the child had been examined by that licensed physician.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2464.



January 28, 2010

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: H.B. 2464 – Relating to Practice of Pharmacy
Hearing: Friday, January 29, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee on Health:

I am Gary Slovin, an attorney with Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, testifying on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates and offers immunization services in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. To date, this program has allowed Walgreens to provide over 1.6 million H1N1 vaccines across the country. In Hawai‘i, Walgreens now has 9 stores on the islands of Maui and Oahu.

Walgreens **strongly supports H.B. 2464**, which amends the definition of "practice of pharmacy" by changing the age of persons to whom immunizations are administered from 18 to nine years of age with parental consent.

Allowing pharmacists to administer vaccinations is a low-cost and convenient way to meet an important public health need. Studies have shown that in states in which pharmacists are allowed to administer vaccines, the vaccine coverage rates are increased for the target population.

Pharmacists are required to receive specialized training to administer vaccinations. Presently, Walgreens pharmacists who participate in vaccine programs go through a “Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery” certificate training program offered by the American Pharmacists Association and recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or a state approved equivalent program. In addition to immunization training, all participating pharmacists are required to become certified in adult and child CPR and take OSHA blood-borne pathogens training. These programs include training to administer vaccines for children nine years of age and older.

Walgreens supports this bill because it gives pharmacists prescriptive authority whereby they, upon proper eligibility screening, can administer any approved vaccine to an eligible patient at least 9 years of age.

Lowering the age restrictions for pharmacist-administered vaccines will improve access to life-saving vaccines and serve as a valuable preventative tool. It would allow for a quick and effective response to vaccinate a large number of people in the event of a public health emergency in Hawai‘i.

Walgreens respectfully requests that the Committee pass this measure. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.