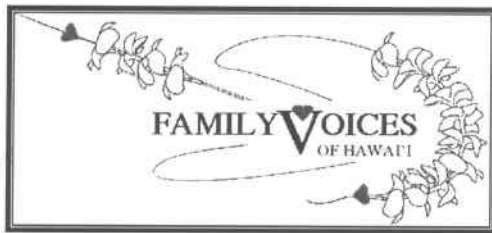


SB2492



HILOPA'A

Family to Family Health Information Center

Date: February 9, 2009
To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair
Fr: Leolinda Parlin, State Coordinator for Family Voices of Hawai'i
Re: **OPPOSE SB 2492 RELATING TO PRACTICE OF PHARMACY**

LATE

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, I offer testimony in opposition of SB2492 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. SB2492 in effect, begins to dismantle the "Medical Home" by fragmenting care and inadvertently minimizes the continuity of care, child health advocates have fought for over the years.

It is not clear what the follow up obligation and liability will be for the pharmacies related to adverse reactions to the ever increasing wide array of immunizations. Will the pharmacists be able to prescribe pain or anti-nausea medications to address symptoms or will they be referred back to their physicians? Will they have the ongoing relationship with the child and family to determine if a reaction requires hospitalization, on-site physician follow up or family training and phone support for their primary care provider? There is an increase of requests by families to "break up" the vaccines and spread them out over a longer period of time. While many of the larger pharmacies have their own proprietary registries, how will the overall tracking across pharmacies and physician offices be conducted to insure children are not missing out on their immunizations or are over-immunized?

As an organization, Family Voices is national grass roots organization of family of friends of child with special health care needs. In Hawai'i, we operate the federally funded Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center. Our commitment to our children and families and the principles of family centered care requires us to oppose this measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.