

SCR 212

/SR 108

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010**

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
10:00 a.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 212, S.D.1, AND
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 108, S.D.1, REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF LOWERING THE AGE OF
PHARMACY-ADMINISTERED VACCINATION RECIPIENTS TO NINE YEARS OLD.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dr. Elwin Goo, Chair of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board") and I appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments on S.C.R. No. 212, S.D.1 and S.R. No. 108, S.D.1.

The Board supports these resolutions that will establish a task force named the "Pharmacist-Administered Vaccination Task Force" to allow representatives from various interests and affected organizations to come together to research and report on the potential benefits and drawbacks of lowering the age restriction for pharmacists to administer vaccines to children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our written comments on S.C.R. No. 212, S.D.1 and S.R. No. 108, S.D.1.

Ken H. Takayama
Director

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

SCR212, SD1

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF LOWERING THE AGE OF PHARMACY-ADMINISTERED VACCINATION RECIPIENTS TO NINE YEARS OLD

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 212, S.D. 1, concerning lowering the age of recipients of pharmacy-administered vaccinations.

The Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau) takes **no position** either for or against the measure, but submits the following comments and concerns:

1. As always, if the Legislature wants us to undertake this project, we will do it to the best of our ability with the resources we have.
2. The Resolution requests the Chair of the Board of Pharmacy to establish a task force to determine the feasibility of lowering the age at which vaccinations may be administered by pharmacists.
3. The Bureau is requested (in the eighth "Resolved" clause) to "assist the Task Force in drafting its recommendations and proposed legislation."
4. While the project requested of the Bureau by this particular measure appears in and of itself to be manageable, we are concerned about the cumulative effect of passage of a number of similar measures.

5. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 212, S.D. 1, is one of approximately a dozen vehicles still "alive" that request the Bureau to draft proposed legislation (and often "recommendations" in addition) for a task force, working group, or other entity. These measures are **in addition** to the usual complement of measures requesting studies.
6. We anticipate that many of these entities, left to their own devices, will not be formulating their proposed legislation until December or January, thus coinciding with the period of the Bureau's heaviest workload in terms of responding to requests for bills and other work from legislators in preparation for the 2011 session.
7. In view of the foregoing, we request that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 212, S.D. 1, be amended to request the Task Force to transmit its intended proposed legislation to the Bureau not later than November 1, 2010. This could be accomplished by amending the eighth "Resolved" clause as follows:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, . . . and that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to assist the Task Force in drafting its recommendations and any proposed legislation; *provided that the Task Force is requested to submit its recommendations and proposals for legislation to the Legislative Reference Bureau for drafting not later than November 1, 2010.*"
8. We believe that this amendment will help to ensure that the Task Force's report is submitted to the Legislature in a timely manner.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit comments.



April 6, 2010

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SCR 212, SD1/SR 108, SD1 – Requesting the Establishment of a Task Force to Examine the Feasibility of Lowering the Age of Pharmacy-Administered Vaccination Recipients to Nine Years Old

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am Mihoko Ito, an attorney with Goodsell Anderson Quinn & Stifel, submitting comments 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 **supports SCR 212, SD1 and SR 108, SD1, with amendments.** These resolutions establish a task force to examine the feasibility of lowering the age of pharmacy-administered vaccination recipients to nine years old.

We would request that an amendment be made to reincorporate Walgreens and Long’s as the representatives of the chain drug stores on the task force. We believe that Walgreens is uniquely positioned to provide input on the issue, given that it already successfully provides immunizations to children in 18 states.

While we ultimately support the lowering of the age restrictions to age 9 for pharmacist-administered vaccines, we also support the passage of these resolutions, as we believe that increasing access to vaccines is an important public issue that should be fully considered and analyzed by the interested stakeholders.

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.

*Walgreen Co. Government and Community Relations 104 Wilmot Road, MS 1444 Deerfield, IL 60015
847-315-4653 FAX 847-315-4417 www.walgreens.com*

Walgreens believes that, given proper training and certification for pharmacists, lowering the age restrictions for pharmacist-administered vaccines will improve access to life-saving vaccines and serve as a valuable preventative tool. It would also 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 these resolutions. Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit comments.