

# S.B. NO. 2826

JAN 25 2012

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 321-2:5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3           "(a) This section shall apply to all volunteer medical  
4 assistance personnel, including:

5           (1) Physicians;

6           (2) Psychologists;

7           (3) Nurses;

8           (4) Emergency medical technicians;

9           (5) Social workers;

10           (6) Mobile intensive care technicians; [~~and~~]

11           (7) Physician assistants [~~7~~]; and

12           (8) Pharmacists,

13 licensed or certified in this State, or employed by a health  
14 care facility, while providing volunteer medical assistance  
15 services."

16           SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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BY REQUEST

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**Report Title:**

Volunteer Medical Assistance Services

**Description:**

Adds pharmacists as a volunteer health professional to be provided immunity from liability.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES.

PURPOSE: To include pharmacists as a volunteer health professional.

MEANS: Add pharmacists to section 321-2.5 (a), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: This amendment would provide immunity from liability to pharmacists providing volunteer services on behalf of the State or counties, such as school-based immunization clinics. Lack of coverage for professional liability may mean that these valuable workers will not participate as state volunteers, thereby limiting the ability of the State to draw upon their skills as a critical public health resource.

Impact on the public: Pharmacists could volunteer their time without fear of exposure to undo risk, and the public at large could benefit from their donation of time and expertise.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Adding pharmacists to this section should improve the preparation for disaster response, increase the ability to recruit, train, and retain volunteer medical professionals.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: HTH-730.

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.