

SB 2826, SD 1



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
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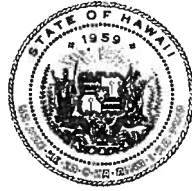
Senate Committee on Health

**SB 2826, SD 1, RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
SERVICES**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

February 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this Administration bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** No impact.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would include pharmacists as volunteer medical assistance
- 4 personnel. Medically-licensed volunteer workers who are performing volunteer medical assistance
- 5 services within the scope of their license on behalf of the State or a county are indemnified under Hawaii
- 6 law when responding to an emergency and during non-emergency situations such as school-based
- 7 immunization clinics. Lack of coverage for professional liability may mean that these valuable workers
- 8 will not participate as state volunteers, thereby limiting the ability of the State to draw upon their skills
- 9 as a critical public health resource.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

February 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Regarding S.B. 2826, SD1, Relating to Volunteer Medical Assistance Services.

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President of Nursing, ED, Trauma, CNO, of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying on S.B. 2826, SD1, which seeks to include pharmacists who provide state voluntary medical assistance services as immune from liability. **QHS strongly supports this measure.**

Medical professional volunteers continue to be needed to supplement the State's staff in preparation for disasters and emergencies, including pharmacists. Lack of coverage for professional liability for pharmacists will likely mean that these valuable workers will not participate as state volunteers. As much as they may wish to help, they are unlikely to risk losing their home or other assets as the result of a lawsuit. Utilization of volunteers for periodic non-emergency activities and events keeps the volunteer force active and interested, provides an opportunity for volunteer training, and allows practice of the system for calling volunteers out to respond. In order to build a strong volunteer workforce of medical professionals to support public health interventions and for emergency medical surge capacity, we strongly believe that pharmacists who volunteer for the state should be indemnified in both emergency and non-emergency situations, providing that they are acting within the scope of their license and assigned volunteer role and without willful misconduct.

QHS strongly supports this measure as it will provide the public with the benefits of including pharmacists in an enhanced volunteer workforce organized and trained to respond to emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Friday, February 24, 2012; 10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol - Conference Room 016

**RE: SB 2826 SD1 – Relating to Volunteer Medical Assistance Services – In Support,
Requesting Amendment**

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

My name is Todd Inafuku and I am a pharmacist, **testifying in support of SB 2826 SD1**, which adds pharmacists as a volunteer health professional to be provided immunity from liability.

Pharmacists are able to administer immunization orally, by injection, or by intranasal delivery to persons eighteen years of age older provided they first receive appropriate training that includes programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), curriculum-based programs from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy, state or local health department, or programs recognized by the board of pharmacy. By including pharmacists as volunteer medical assistance personnel, pharmacists who are able to administer immunization may be allowed to volunteer and provide professional medical services in support of vaccination campaigns.

Having worked in the past as the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Branch pharmacist for the Department of Health, I am strongly recommending that SB 2826 SD1 be amended to also include pharmacists in HRS 321-23.3 as volunteer emergency medical disaster response personnel. In the event that prophylaxis medication or administration of vaccines may need to be provided to the public at Points of Distribution, pharmacists may be called upon to provide assistance at those identified locations. Also, pharmacist oversight to ensure the continued supply of maintenance prescription medication to individuals under the care provided at Alternate Care Sites during an emergency is critical to the healthcare and well being of those individuals and will prevent these individuals from overwhelming emergency care facilities just to obtain their maintenance medications.

The addition of pharmacists to the list of volunteer emergency medical disaster response personnel will allow pharmacists licensed in this state or employed in a health care facility to utilize their professional expertise in the emergency response to a mass casualty event or disaster. This will also allow pharmacists to participate in the mass casualty and disaster training which is vital in the preparation for the response to an emergency event.

I ask for your favorable consideration in passing this measure and to amend the effective date to July 1, 2012 or upon approval. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Todd K. Inafuku, Pharmacist
Telephone (808) 620-2288