



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 0203, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO VACCINATIONS**

REPRESENTATIVE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE  
Hearing Date: 03/28/2019 Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health
- 2 **Department Testimony:** With the addition of immunizations to the pharmacy scope of practice
- 3 ([HRS §461-1](#)), persons in Hawaii have increased access immunizations via an alternative to
- 4 traditional medical office settings. The addition of pharmacists to [HRS §325-33](#) would
- 5 recognize pharmacists' expanded presence in the immunization healthcare arena. Enhanced
- 6 access to immunizations via pharmacies offers opportunities for increased partnership between
- 7 the medical home and pharmacists. The Department continues to recommend that groups
- 8 representing pharmacists continue to work with physician organizations to collaboratively
- 9 preserve the medical home and assure appropriate monitoring of patient health.
- 10 The requirement for pharmacists to maintain and make available immunization records to the
- 11 Department of Education and the Department of Health would be beneficial if evidence of
- 12 immunization were needed, such as providing documentation of meeting school or post-
- 13 secondary school entry requirements or in the course of disease outbreak investigations.
- 14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Thursday, March 28, 2019  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 203, H.D. 1, RELATING TO VACCINATIONS**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board supports this bill and requests changing its effective date from July 1, 2050, to “upon approval.”

The purpose of this bill is to clarify that pharmacists may perform certain vaccinations or immunizations and are required to maintain immunization records.

Act 68, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 authorized pharmacists to administer the human papillomavirus, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis), meningococcal, or influenza vaccine to persons between eleven and seventeen years of age. It also specified requirements that pharmacists must meet prior to administering the human papillomavirus, Tdap, meningococcal, or influenza vaccine.

The Board’s statutes define the practice of pharmacy to include, among other things, the administration of drugs orally, topically, by intranasal delivery, or by injection pursuant to the order of the patient’s licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse, by an appropriately trained pharmacist.

For the Committee’s information, pharmacists have been administering influenza vaccines for years, and during the 2016 Hepatitis A outbreak, they also administered the Hepatitis A virus vaccine. The ability to provide access to care by trained pharmacists in a timely manner is vital to ensuring the health and welfare of the consumers of this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., Rm 329

by  
Marcia Sakai  
Interim Chancellor  
and  
Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP  
Dean  
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### SB 203 HD1 – RELATING TO VACCINATIONS

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

My name is Carolyn Ma, and I am the Dean for the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). The DKICP fully supports this bill that will allow registered pharmacists trained and certified in vaccine administration to administer vaccines to 11-17 year old patients. The bill also specifies requirements pharmacists must meet prior to administering any vaccine to a person between these ages.

Act 68, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2017, authorized pharmacists to administer vaccinations to patients in the age range of 11-17 year olds. It also specified requirements that pharmacists must meet prior to administering vaccinations. However, it appears that the language of Act 68 was inconsistent as it also referred to a separate age range of "fourteen and seventeen." Accordingly, this bill would clarify the intent of Act 68, SLH 2017, by clarifying the age range as "eleven and seventeen."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Testimony of  
Hawai'i Immunization Coalition (HIC)

Before:  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

March 28, 2019  
2:00 pm  
Conference Room 329

**Re: SB 203 HD1 Relating to Vaccinations**

Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 203 HD1.

The Hawai'i Immunization Coalition (HIC) **strongly supports SB 203 HD1** that clarifies that pharmacists may perform certain vaccinations or immunizations and are required to maintain immunization records.

In a recent survey conducted by May Rose Dela Cruz, DrPH, researcher at the University of Hawai'i Office of Public Health Studies that surveyed health providers statewide found that:

- Only 36.9% of doctors surveyed have sent their patients 11 years old and above to a pharmacist to receive his/her shots.
- 62% of doctors (mostly pediatricians) stocked the HPV vaccine. However, only 54% of Hawai'i's youth are vaccinated with the HPV vaccine. The low percentage may be due to missed doses (youth not finishing their shots to completion) or doctors not administering the HPV vaccine. The HPV vaccine is important because it can prevent most of the cancers and infections that HPV causes.

Recent outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in both Hawai'i and on the Continental U.S. were all vaccine-preventable. In Hawai'i, access to pharmacist-administered vaccines played a major role in ensuring that many people were protected in a timely manner.

Our pharmacists have the capabilities and infrastructure to administer vaccines.

- Pharmacists must complete a rigorous immunization curriculum and certification process, as well as regular continuing education, including appropriate vaccination record keeping.
- Pharmacy locations are ideal for adolescents in our rural communities to access because of their convenient evening and weekend times and flexible walk-in periods.
- Pharmacies have the needed facilities to administer vaccines on-site.
- Pharmacists are in a position to increase vaccination rates in Hawai'i.

HIC supports pharmacists being able to administer vaccinations. Their ability to do so increases accessibility of vaccines to adolescents and adults. The Hawai'i Immunization Coalition is pleased to see immunizations included in their scope of practice. Recent outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in both Hawai'i and on the Continental U.S. were all vaccine-preventable. In Hawai'i, access to pharmacies played a major role in ensuring that many people were protected in a timely manner.

The Hawai'i Immunization Coalition (HIC) is a statewide, community-based non-profit 501(c) 3 coalition of public and private organizations and concerned individuals whose mission is to promote effective strategies to ensure that all Hawai'i's families are appropriately vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases. Focus: Immunizations across the lifespan.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 8:40:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Weinstein	R. Weinstein, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:22:41 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Uyemoto	Times Pharmacy	Support	No

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB203 HD1.

Times Pharmacy **strongly supports SB 203 HD1** that clarifies that pharmacists may perform certain vaccinations or immunizations and are required to maintain immunization records.

Our pharmacists have the capabilities and infrastructure to administer vaccines.

- Pharmacists must complete a rigorous immunization curriculum and certification process, as well as regular continuing education, including appropriate vaccination record keeping.
- Pharmacy locations are ideal for adolescents in our rural communities to access because of their convenient evening and weekend times and flexible walk-in periods.
- Pharmacies have the needed facilities to administer vaccines on-site.
- Pharmacists are in a position to increase vaccination rates in Hawai‘i.

HIC supports pharmacists being able to administer vaccinations. Their ability to do so increases accessibility of vaccines to adolescents and adults. The Hawai‘i Immunization Coalition is pleased to see immunizations included in their scope of practice. Recent outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in both Hawai‘i and on the Continental U.S. were all vaccine-preventable. In Hawai‘i, access to pharmacies played a major role in ensuring that many people were protected in a timely manner.

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 4:44:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 6:46:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janelle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the ability of pharmacists being able to give vaccinations. They are as capable and knowledgeable as the provider in the office on vaccinations. They are aware of the contraindications as well as the indications, often better than the primary care provider.

Sometimes it is difficult for primary care providers to supply vaccination. I know my physician does not have vaccinations. My child's physician requires an appointment when I work, so I don't take my child there. I would love to be able to take my child to the nearest pharmacy after my work hours to get the vaccination. For the purposes of protecting the community (herd immunity) it is extremely beneficial to offer more locations to get vaccinations. This ability allows pharmacists to also do more community outreach and target the population who would never go to see a physician. However, through this method they could get necessary preventive services.

There is often concern about documentation, but the pharmacists in my experience have always documented in HIR, and sent a confirmation of immunization given to the primary care doctor. There is no reason why immunizations should be limited to the primary care provider, where there are many barriers. When I went to the pharmacy to get a shot, they were easily able to pull up my insurance information as well and tell me exactly what the cost would be. The primary care provider was unsure. In fact, when I work at a primary care practice, I often don't have the capability to check insurances and tell patients what their cost will be so they are hesitant to get vaccines. Pharmacists address the cost concern before they bill anyone for a visit, unlike the primary care providers.



Date: March 22, 2019

To: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: **Strong Support of SB203 HD1**, Relating to Vaccinations

Hrg: March 28, 2019 at 2:00 PM in Capitol Room 329

Aloha House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

As a father, community member and licensed pharmacist, I am writing in **strong support of SB203 HD1**, which clarifies that pharmacists may perform certain vaccinations or immunizations and are required to maintain immunization records.

With Hawai'i teen vaccination rates ranging from 55% to 80% depending on the vaccine, pharmacists increase access to vaccines that prevent diseases, including a number of cancers. Recent outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in both Hawai'i and on the Continental U.S. were all vaccine-preventable. In Hawai'i, access to pharmacist-administered vaccines played a major role in ensuring that many people were protected in a timely manner.

Hawai'i pharmacists are ideally positioned members of the healthcare team to increase vaccination rates. To qualify to deliver immunizations, our pharmacists must complete a rigorous curriculum and certification process, as well as regular continuing education, including appropriate vaccination record keeping.

Hawai'i pharmacies are conveniently located in our urban and rural communities, open evenings and on weekends, and are prepared with the needed facilities to administer vaccines on-site.

I **strongly support SB203 HD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 8:58:45 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ailene Barranco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, I support this bill for the goal to increase vaccination among our children.

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 10:51:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB203.

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I unequivocally **support and urge the passage of SB 203**, which clarifies that pharmacists may perform certain vaccinations or immunizations and are required to maintain immunization records.

Recent outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in both Hawai'i and on the Continental U.S. were all vaccine-preventable. They also demonstrate the danger of reducing access to vaccines. In Hawai'i, access to pharmacies played a major role in ensuring that many people were protected from hepatitis A and other diseases in a timely manner.

Our pharmacists have the capabilities and infrastructure to administer vaccines.

- Pharmacists must complete a rigorous immunization curriculum and certification process, as well as regular continuing education, including appropriate vaccination record keeping.
- Pharmacy locations are ideal for adolescents in our rural communities to access because of their convenient evening and weekend times and flexible walk-in periods.
- Pharmacies have the needed facilities to administer vaccines on-site.
- Pharmacists are in a position to increase vaccination rates in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time,

Thaddeus Pham

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 11:27:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
SueAnn Yasuoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is SueAnn Yasuoka and I am a practicing / vaccination Pharmacist in the Retail Community. I am in support of SB203.

However, I am concerned that the requirement for the "pharmacist" to provide the vaccination record may not be the appropriate term. The Pharmacist practices under the organization for which they are employed and it is both the Pharmacy and the Pharmacist's responsibility to be able to provide the information of a vaccination that was administered.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inquire from the legislature their position in supporting the Department of Health's Immunization Registry. The Registry has not been in operation for at least a year now and it has comprised our ability to effectively provide immunizations to people who may be in need of vaccinations. Reporting to the Registry was very helpful in determining if a vaccination was needed and when it was needed. Without Electronic medical records that communicate between providers, this system did bridge that gap between the pharmacy and the provider. I encourage you to look into this and find some resolution to this problem. It will greatly enhance the reporting that this Bill is asking for.

Respectfully,

SueAnn Yasuoka, RPh.

**SB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 2:08:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashok Kota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB203 HD1.

Pharmacists have the knowledge and infrastructure to increase immunization rates in the state of Hawaii. I strongly support this bill.