

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2113, H.D. 1

February 23, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO PHARMACY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2113, H.D. 1: 1) establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund (COPSF) to be administered by the University of Hawai'i and expended on activities related to pharmacist workforce development and planning within the State; 2) establishes pharmacist workforce assessment fees of undetermined amounts for renewed pharmacist licenses, new or renewed wholesale prescription drug distributor licenses, new or renewed pharmacy permits, and new or renewed permits; 3) appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds for FY 25 from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Compliance Resolution Fund to be deposited into the COPSF; and 4) appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the COPSF for FY 25 for the purpose of pharmacist workforce development. Revenues for the COPSF include appropriations by the Legislature, pharmacist workforce assessment fees, interest, and grants, gifts and other income.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should:

- 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;
- 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue;
- 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and
- 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 2113, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed COPSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2113 HD1 – RELATING TO PHARMACY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2113 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2113 HD1, which establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to create a Hawai'i Center for Pharmacy which will support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts. The Center will be established through a pharmacist workforce assessment fee, and appropriate funds to advance the profession of pharmacy, as part of an intentional effort to help improve access to quality health care for the people of Hawai'i.

Pharmacists are among the most accessible health care providers, with a doctoral level of expertise and clinical training, and are currently underutilized in Hawai'i. HB 2113 HD1 is modeled after the Hawai'i Center for Medicine and Hawai'i Center for Nursing, which have been instrumental in facilitating the ability of these professions to be proactive and strategic in formulating data-informed solutions for existing and emerging health care challenges in Hawai'i. HB 2113 HD1 will allow pharmacists, who are essential members of current health care teams, to also align with and contribute to this collective effort.

Passage of HB 2113 HD1 represents a profession-driven solution that will allow pharmacy to match the standard already granted to other health care professions (medicine, nursing) in Hawai'i. It will allow for a workforce assessment fee as part of licensing requirements that would create a foundational base and sustainable mechanism for supporting the activities of a Hawai'i Center for Pharmacy.

The Hawai'i Center for Pharmacy will be housed in the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, which similar to the existing centers for medicine and nursing, will allow the profession to leverage the academic expertise and unique training and professional networks that are necessary for implementing data-driven approaches and innovative

solutions to improve access to quality health care. In addition, the role of the college in training future pharmacists offers natural synergies for supporting the disbursement of scholarships and loan repayment initiatives to attract to Hawai'i and retain needed talent for service in medically-underserved areas of the state.

In summary, passage of HB 2113 HD1 will support a data-informed, coordinated and intentional effort to position the profession of pharmacy to help fill existing health care gaps in Hawai'i. The college is uniquely suited for housing the proposed Center which will proactively assess, train, and leverage pharmacists, working with pharmacy stakeholders across the state and country, to fill gaps in care related to medication management and safety. Pharmacists are embedded as trusted health care professionals in many remote communities, and many published studies have documented their positive impact on patient outcomes as the health care landscape has shifted to value- and team-based care models. The proposed Center would be instrumental in adapting effective approaches for the unique needs of Hawai'i and creating innovative solutions working in alignment with other stakeholders in today's rapidly evolving health care landscape. The people of Hawai'i deserve access to quality health care and we respectfully ask your support in allowing the profession of pharmacy to be part of the solution through this Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2113 HD1.

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 23, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

**On the following measure:
H. B. 2113, H.D.1, RELATING TO PHARMACY**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board supports the intent of this bill and offers comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts; (2) establish the pharmacist workforce assessment fee; and (3) appropriate funds.

The Board requests clarification on oversight of such a fund. Without assurances related to oversight, it is unclear who this special fund will benefit.

The Board requests additional information related to the benefit of such a fee to licensees. License fees are provided in proportion to the cost of managing and administering the Board and the Board's related licenses. To increase fees on all licensees under the Board of Pharmacy without a clear benefit to be gained by licensees is of concern.

Lastly, the amount which will be added to initial licensure and renewal fees is unclear. The Board requests clarity on the amount of funding that is being requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.
EST. 1935

February 21, 2024

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113, HD1 – Establishment of a Center for Pharmacy

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Finance Committee:

As a rural healthcare provider, access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services is our mission at Moloka'i Drugs. On behalf of our employees and patients, I am testifying in favor of HB2113, HD1, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i.

For the past 15+ years, we have supported the Daniel K. Inouye UH College of Pharmacy (DKICOP) by being a preceptor site for year one to year four interns working at Moloka'i Drugs with our pharmacist-in-charge. Unfortunately, not one DKICOP intern we have hosted was raised on Moloka'i. One of the biggest reasons we have had a difficult time "growing our own" on Moloka'i is the pure expense of four years of off-island pharmacy school tuition, room and board, books, fees and travel. One of the proposed roles of the new center will include coordinating pharmacy student loan payment. By having a center helping with pharmacy school student loan payment, we will find more of our Moloka'i students going into the pharmacy profession.

Currently, Moloka'i Drugs is a training worksite for national certified pharmacy technician (CPhT) training for Good Jobs Hawai'i, a partnership among the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, employers and organizations that "want to help people in Hawai'i attain a good quality job for generations to come." Moloka'i Drugs is also partnering with DKICOP, the University of Hawai'i – Hilo and the University of Hawai'i – Maui College with expanded CPhT development, which will include immunization training for CPhTs. This new center will also help implement retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, which has always been a concern of rural healthcare facilities, including Molokai Drugs, on the island of Moloka'i with a population of 7,000 residents.

Thank you for your consideration and vote for HB2113, HD1. We at Moloka'i Drugs, Inc. look forward to being the first company signed with the Center for Pharmacy, which will help us make more of an impact in access to quality healthcare services for our patients.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mikami Svetin /s/

Kimberly Mikami Svetin
President
Moloka'i Drugs, Inc.
P.O. Box 558
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Work 808-553-5790

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Pharmacist Workforce Assessment Fees

BILL NUMBER: HB 2113 HD1

INTRODUCED BY: SAYAMA, BELATTI, HOLT, KILA, KOBAYASHI, LA CHICA, MARTEN, MIYAKE, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, TAKENOUCI, TAM, TARNAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts. Establishes the pharmacist workforce assessment fee.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 304A, HRS, that establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund. The fund shall be used to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts, including the recruitment and retention of pharmacists, for rural and medically underserved areas of the State, including: (1) Maintaining accurate pharmacist workforce assessment information and providing or updating personal and professional information, that shall be maintained in a secure database; (2) Providing loan repayment to pharmacists who commit to working in medically underserved areas of the State as part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program administered by the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy; and (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying pharmacy students to be determined by the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy.

Adds a new section to chapter 461, HRS, that imposes the Workforce Assessment Fee. The fee imposed is: (1) \$ _____, for each renewed license as a pharmacist; (2) \$ _____, for each new or renewed wholesale prescription drug distributor license; (3) \$ _____, for each new or renewed pharmacy permit under section 461-14; and (4) \$ _____, for each new or renewed permit under section 461-15. The fee is to be deposited into the special fund.

Makes technical and conforming amendments to sections 461-8 and 461-16, HRS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 3000.

STAFF COMMENTS: The 1989 Tax Review Commission noted that use of special fund financing is a “departure from Hawaii’s sound fiscal policies and should be avoided.” It also noted that special funds are appropriate where the revenues to the funds maintain some direct connection between a public service and the beneficiary of that service. The Commission found that special funds which merely set aside general funds cannot be justified as such actions restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability. It recommended that such programs can be given priority under the normal budget process without having to resort to this type of financing.

We understand that industry is supporting this measure to “keep up with the Joneses,” namely the physicians and the nurses, who we understand already have special-funded programs. Whether to achieve parity or not, the Legislature should be exercising its constitutional responsibilities and determine which of the State’s priorities are worthy of funding. If scholarships and loan repayment for new pharmacists and pharmacists-in-training is as important as its proponents suggest, then the legislature could just give a few more dollars to the University of Hawaii to administer such programs. The bill proposes, in essence, partial abdication of that responsibility to the University of Hawaii.

Digested: 2/12/2024



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference
by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on H.B. 2113, H.D. 1

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing this measure which aims to establish the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts as well as establishes the pharmacist workforce assessment fee and appropriates funds.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HCSN) was established by a similar manner as proposed in H.B. 2113. Established by the Legislature in 2003 by Act 198 with staffing starting in 2005, the Center was founded "to address nursing workforce issues." The Center is located at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) and reports to its Dean, in addition to being guided by the Advisory Board. The Center is supported by the nurses of Hawai'i through the Center for Nursing Fee. These funds are deposited into a "special fund" account for Center use. In addition, the Center receives support for programs from our in-state schools of nursing, health care facilities across the state, and through grants and funding opportunities from state and national partners.

Over the 19 years that our Center has been in service to the state, we have consistently supported the state in its pursuit to ensure there are adequate number of nurses. In times like the present, where the inevitable retirements of our baby boomer population of nurses was compounded with the instability in the workforce due to COVID, the workforce data we produce, as well as the strategies, programs, and outcomes we deliver have increased value. Our work has facilitated both an increase in educational capacity across schools of nursing in Hawai'i, as well as increase in hiring of new graduate nurses, and far better retention rates for these nurses than for new graduates, nationally.

Workforce centers are valuable assets nationally and locally. HSCN has been in close conversations with the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy and commends their efforts to support their professional workforce through workforce assessment and planning efforts.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at KTA Super Stores on the Big Island, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to innovative patient care models and advanced pharmacy services. I believe our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could integrate comprehensive medication management or expand collaborative practice agreements. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer. This strategic approach would enhance patient care, foster professional growth, and contribute significantly to the overall healthcare landscape in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Arbles".

Megan Arbles, Pharm D.
Director of Pharmacy Operations
KTA Super Stores

You're Someone Special Every Day at KTA!

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113, Relating to pharmacists on March 23, 2024 at 10:00AM

The Honorable Kyle Yamashita
Chair, Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 306
Honolulu, HI 96813

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

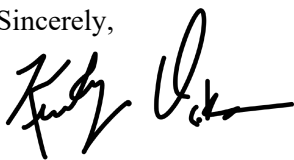
I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As Chief Pharmacy Officer and Co-Founder of Maika'i Health Community Clinic, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to the evolution of the pharmacy profession as we optimize the health industry's provision of quality care. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes with provider status enabling increased autonomy in processes involving medication management – a significant component of chronic disease state management. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Y. Ooka, RPh, MA
Chief Pharmacy Officer and Co-Founder
Maika'i Health Community Clinic.



Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday February 23, 2024

Corrie L. Sanders on behalf of The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a pharmacy special fund to create a Center for Pharmacy. We believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including funding 1.0 FTE to serve as the Executive Director for the Center for Pharmacy also include assisting in coordination pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, as well as serving as an entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is currently underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

As we navigate through a transformative period in healthcare, characterized by a shift towards a value-based and team-based care model, it is imperative to recognize the indispensable role that pharmacists must play in patient outcomes and access to care. With shortages in various healthcare professions, leveraging the expertise of pharmacists becomes even more critical in ensuring comprehensive and accessible healthcare services for our communities.

The establishment of the pharmacy special fund and Center for Pharmacy would provide the necessary infrastructure to support pharmacists in fulfilling their expanded roles in healthcare. The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association has worked with the Board of Pharmacy and the Daniel K. Inouye School of Pharmacy to mimic the flow of funds that created similar centers for both nursing and medicine. Because of their respective centers, both nursing and medicine have a proactive role in finding innovative healthcare solutions. The Center for Pharmacy special fund is a **profession driven, sustainable solution that matches the standard already granted to other healthcare professions in Hawai'i. The proposed allocation of funds will generate just over \$500,000 every two years.**

Suggested amendments:

Section 2 340A – (c) ~~Moneys~~ Monies (*spelling correction*) in the special fund shall be used to support the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy's activities related to pharmacist workforce assessment and planning within the state driven by the Center for Pharmacy. Provided that the workforce assessment fees transferred and deposited in the special fund pursuant to section 461 – shall be used to support 1.0 FTE for the Executive Director Position for the Center for Pharmacy, pharmacist workforce and planning efforts, including the recruitment and retention of pharmacists, for rural and medically underserved areas of the state. These efforts will be included, but not limited to:

- (1) Allocation of the special funds for 1.0 FTE to serve as the Executive Director for the Center for Pharmacy

- (2) Maintaining accurate pharmacist workforce assessment information and providing or updating personal and professional information, which shall be maintained in a secure data base
- ~~(3) Providing loan repayment to pharmacists who commit to working in medically underserved areas of the State as part of the Hawai'i state loan repayment program administered by the Daniel K. Inouye school of pharmacy: concern for sufficient amount of funds specifically for loan repayment, but we would certainly expect the Center for Pharmacy to assist in creation of more desirable positions and progressive pharmacy practice opportunities in MUAs. There is already a state level loan repayment process for healthcare professionals in MUAs.~~
- (4) Provide scholarships to qualifying pharmacy students, to be determined by the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy

Section 3: ~~Pharmacist Workforce Assessment Fee~~ to the "Center for Pharmacy Fee" (*suggested amendment throughout the bill to create less confusion of utilization for the funds and remind renewing pharmacists of the Center as a resource*).

Section 3 (b):

- (1) \$100* for each renewed license as a pharmacist
- (2) \$200* for each new or renewed wholesale prescription drug distributor license
- (3) \$200* for each new or renewed pharmacy permit under section 461-14; and
- (4) \$200* for each new or renewed permit under section 461-15

**licenses are renewed for 2 year periods, so pharmacist practice fees (1) will increase \$50/year and other entities (2-4) increase \$100/year.*

Request addition of another section to outline oversight and reporting requirements to appease concerns from multiple stakeholders:

SECTION XX: The Center for Pharmacy Advisory Board will consist of 10 members to ensure continued service and development of the pharmacy profession across various practice settings. Advisory board members will consist of the following members:

1. One professional representing the medical community
2. One professional representing the nursing community
3. The executive director or chairperson of the Board of Pharmacy
4. The President of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association
5. The Dean of the Daniel K. Inouye School of Pharmacy
6. Pharmacist – practicing independent community pharmacist
7. Pharmacist – practicing hospital pharmacist
8. Pharmacist – practicing ambulatory care pharmacist
9. Pharmacist – practicing neighbor island pharmacist
10. Pharmacist – practicing pharmacist, other setting

The Center for Pharmacy will provide an annual report to the DCCA and legislature, as desired.

Of note, even with increases, these are still amongst the lowest registration fees in the country. I urge the committee's support for HB2113, recognizing that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy is a pivotal step towards ensuring the optimal utilization of pharmacists in our evolving healthcare landscape. The proposed initiatives align with the growing importance of pharmacy in patient-centered care and position our profession to be at the forefront of positive healthcare transformation.



Thank you for your consideration. Very respectfully,



Corrie L. Sanders, PharmD., BCACP, CPGx
President, Hawai'i Pharmacists Association

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:59:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D., MBA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB2113 HD1. Mahalo

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:02:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lara Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to improving patient care. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes and the overall health and well being of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Lara Gomez, Pharm D

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist who owns my own medical practice, The Keto Prescription Clinic, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession. We have not represented or protected ourselves well and as a result, an MD stole \$80,000 in insurance reimbursements from me in 2019-2020.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to supporting patient care on a higher level. We are the medication experts and can greatly assist in an environment where patients are over-medicated and under-educated. I know for a fact that our profession can drastically impact care outcomes based on the results in my clinical practice. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincere Regards,

Dr. Jodi Nishida, PharmD, MHP

The Keto Prescription Clinic

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to pharmacist led rural behavioral health innovation in Hawaii. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could expand collaborative practices and bill for services. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Mahalo,

Lehua Kay, PharmD, BCPP

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND
LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to pharmacist advocacy, rural behavioral health improvements, and a dedicated resource for pharmacy professionals. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could continue to promote our accessibility and provide retention incentives to reduce turnover. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Kerr, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at working in an ambulatory care center at one of our largest health care institutions, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Having been an active and licensed pharmacist in the states of Mississippi and Washington before returning home to Hawaii, I realize how far behind we are as a profession here. I attribute much of that to the lack of infrastructure that we have created for ourselves here. Creating this Center of Pharmacy not only lays the foundation for a thriving and active landscape for future pharmacy professionals to stay in Hawaii to work, but it allows us to finally be on similar playing fields as our counterparts on the mainland.

As a current board member of the Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA), I understand that much work that goes into progressing our profession and advocating for our membership requires much time and commitment. Currently, the pharmacists in our state do not have a true consistent and collective voice. HPhA operates on a 100% volunteer basis, and continuing to advance our profession based on kind-hearted volunteerism is not sustainable. This initiative truly is proposed by members of the profession, funded through members of the profession, and FOR members of the profession. This initiative does not request any special funds. As a state association we have met with our membership base several times through the past 2 years regarding this proposal, and no concerns regarding a minimal increase in licensure fees to pay for this Center of Pharmacy.

My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Thank you,

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:59:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerri Okamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2113 HD1 which would establish a Center of Excellence for Pharmacy.

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:32:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Method Requelman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT of this bill, it is necessary to move the pharmacy profession forward, which inturn increases access to healthcare services to all, especially those in rural areas.

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:44:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelley Nakasone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to approval and/or implementation of pharmacist provider status. Pharmacist provider status would empower pharmacists to practice at the top of their license, contributing to the health care team and improving much needed access to patient care. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Mahalo,
Shelley K. Kikuchi, PharmD, BCACP
Director, Pharmacy Department, Kaiser Permanente

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a Clinical Service Manager at Pharmacare Hawaii, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to pharmacy role in the community becoming for innovative and expansive. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could be more proactive with this requested Center for Pharmacy. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy Matsuyama".

Joy Matsuyama, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Service Manager, Pharmacare Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing on Friday, February 23rd, 2024 10:00AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to improving health equity for vulnerable populations and ensuring timely access to care. Our communities have the most to gain from this initiative. Pharmacists can drastically impact care outcomes if we could develop a means of consolidating and focusing our endeavors into one central entity. My vision is that a Center for Pharmacy will advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing, as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession, patients, and communities we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Chad Kawakami Pharm.D., BCPS

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Hearing on Friday February 23rd, 2024 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to advancing pharmacist patient care services. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we have one voice coordinating all aspects of pharmacy in the state of Hawai'i. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Mark Mierzwa, PharmD, BCPP

Pharmacy Director

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00AM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at [Queens Medical Center – West Oahu], I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to pharmacists and [pharmacy technicians. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could help add such services. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Narinder K Maker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a baseline for the signature.

Narinder K Maker (Pharm D)

Presently working with Wahiawa General Hospital in transition process to work with Queens System