

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
DIRECTOR

**SABRINA NASIR**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**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 HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2113

**February 2, 2024**  
**2:10 p.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO PHARMACY

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

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2113: 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, 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 Higher Education and Technology  
Friday, February 2, 2024 at 2:10 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### HB 2113 – RELATING TO PHARMACY

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2113. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2113, 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 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 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 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 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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 and District Leader at Longs Drugs, overseeing 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 helping pharmacists access the same student loan forgiveness programs that other healthcare workers have access to and helping to solve for the very real problem that is drug shortages in Hawaii. Specifically on the Big Island, we see drugs routinely arriving late by days or not being available at all and our patients, kupuna, and keiki go without being able to take the meds they are used to taking, in some cases driving down adherence to these meds, which can cause hospitalizations and deaths unnecessarily.

I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could practice at the top of our license and bill for services we offer, that other professionals value deeply on the care team. 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.

Pharmacists have long felt like we don't have as much of a voice or a seat at the table like other professions, even though we are one of the most respected and trusted professionals there are, and others rely on us for quick and accurate advice on medication therapies.

Moreover, we see patients the greatest number of times out of all the healthcare professionals and are well positioned to impact the health of our communities positively through all these touch points.

We just need to be able to have a voice like others have, to show our full impact and what we can offer.

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.

**Anthony Gonzalez | PharmD**

Pharmacy District Leader | **Big Island, HI**

**Longs Drugs/CVS Health**

**c 808-271-0511**

# 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

INTRODUCED BY: SAYAMA, BELATTI, HOLT, KILA, KOBAYASHI, LA CHICA, MARTEN, MIYAKE, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, TAKENOUCHI, 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, 2024.

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 question why this new “fee” – actually a tax – is needed. 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: 1/31/2024

**Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy**  
**Before the**  
**House Committee on Higher Education and Technology**  
**Friday, February 2, 2024**  
**2:10 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 309 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board will review and take an official position on H.B. 2113, Relating to Pharmacy, at its next meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., and will provide the Committee with its position following the meeting.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a pharmacist workforce assessment fee to fund activities of the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.





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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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

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*You're Someone Special Every Day at KTA!*



**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on  
Higher Education and Technology  
Friday, February 2, 2024  
Conference Room 309 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**

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, 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.*



Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology  
February 2, 2024

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

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 establish 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 coordinating 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 and special fund is a profession driven solution that matches the standard granted to other health care professions here in Hawai'i.

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, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the special fund and Center for Pharmacy will have on the health and well-being of our community.

Very respectfully,

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



**MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.**  
**EST. 1935**

February 1, 2024

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113 – Establishment of a Center for Pharmacy**

Dear Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Higher Education & Technology 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, 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 also a training worksite for national certified pharmacy technician (CPhT) training for "Good Jobs Hawai'i," which was created during COVID-19 to provide a more diverse workforce outside of travel and tourism. Moloka'i Drugs is now partnering with 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 on the island of Moloka'i with a population of 7,000 residents.

Thank you for your consideration and vote for HB2113. We at Moloka'i Drugs, Inc. look forward to being the first company signed on to 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

**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:47:23 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The purpose of this Act is to establish a pharmacist workforce assessment fee

**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:17:40 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lara Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday February 2nd, 2024 2:10PM

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

University of Hawaii at Hilo, The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday February 2nd , 2024 2:10PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology Committee,

My name is Camlyn Masuda and I am an Associate Specialist and Clinical Pharmacist with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2113, A Bill to Establish a Center for Pharmacy. My testimony does not represent the views of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

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 more pharmacist job opportunities and increased enrollment at the Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if there are more pharmacists who serve in physician offices and in rural communities where there is a shortage of physicians. In addition, having more students at the Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy will support more tuition dollars and additional revenue to the State because students also need to pay for rent and food while attending the college of pharmacy that in the past would be spent on the continent when there was no pharmacy school in the State of Hawai'i. In addition, supporting this center and increasing enrollment will ultimately improve the welfare of the community as more residents become pharmacists, they will graduate and will earn a salary that will allow them to live in Hawai'i and contribute to the economy. 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,



Camlyn Masuda, PharmD, CDCES, BCACP  
Associate Specialist, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice  
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste 1025A  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [camlynm@hawaii.edu](mailto:camlynm@hawaii.edu)



**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 5:55:29 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christina Method	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.

Mahalo!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology Committee,

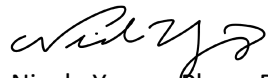
I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, practicing in the intensive care unit at the Queen's Medical Center, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only 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 advocating and creating action plans for improved healthcare quality, access to care, and cost-effective care in Hawaii. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy will lead these initiatives alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing. In the current state, this is not feasible, as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are on a volunteer basis.

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,



Nicole Young, PharmD

Associate Professor

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawaii at Hilo

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
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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

**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:32:59 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kerri Okamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday February 2, 2024 2:10PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. 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.

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,

Kerri Okamura, R.Ph.

**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 9:24:27 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis Le	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. 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.

My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for progressive initiatives to further the profession during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are currently volunteers.

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,

Dennis Le, PharmD

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 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, BCPP, BCPS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. 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 and improving reimbursement to pharmacies. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could bill insurance for our consultations with patients or advocate for proper and fair reimbursement from PBMs/insurance companies. 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,

Daniel Levin PharmD.



**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 12:34:05 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wesley Sumida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology Committee,

I am writing to express my **support** for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. 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.

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.

Respectfully,

Wes Sumida, Pharm.D., BCPS

Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR  
SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 Pharmacy and University of Hawaii at Hilo, 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.

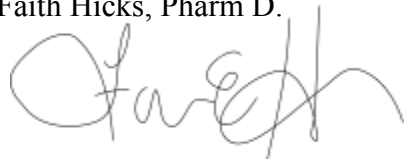
The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate 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 pharmacy technician education and certification, pharmacist community projects and outreach programs that cater to our rural areas . It will foster an environment for networking, innovation and sustainability to support our patients and the communities we all serve. I know our profession can drastically impact health care outcomes if we could put in place activities, events, and programs that extend across Hawaii. We can help fill the gaps in care by working in tandem with our other professional counterparts to promote positive healthcare outcomes for the people of Hawaii. 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,

Faith Hicks, Pharm D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faith Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "H".

**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 12:45:20 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - my name is Aimee Grace, MD, MPH, FAAP, and I am a pediatrician and health policy/public health professional. I am writing in my individual capacity to support this bill. I believe that pharmacists are currently underutilized in our interdisciplinary health care teams, and better understanding their workforce needs and opportunities is critical. Mahalo for your support.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 Pharmacare, 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 improved and innovative practices for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and the ability to be proactive versus reactive when new pharmacy-related issues arise. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could make sure we have a consistent voice in the community. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for initiatives impacting pharmacy practice during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards currently are staffed by volunteers

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 Services Manager  
Pharmacare Retail

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 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 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, patients, and communities we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Chad Kawakami Pharm.D., BCPS

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 2:09:59 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie M Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 lecturer at the University of Hawaii Maui College, and adjunct faculty at UHHilo DKICP, 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 our profession can drastically impact care outcomes. 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.

Valerie Matsunaga, PharmD., BCPS

Immunization , Pharmacy Technician Lecturer

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 2:10PM  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113**

To the honorable Chair Perruso and members of the Higher Education and Technology 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 faculty member at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, with a practice site at East Hawaii Health 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 advancement of pharmacy practice in the state. This would allow to further develop our healthcare workforce and meet the needs of our community. Having the Center for Pharmacy would allow purposeful, focused, and dedicated efforts in ensuring that our healthcare system improves. 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. Collectively, Hawaii could be positioned to be a leading example for the nation on how interdisciplinary, team-based care models can improve the health of a community.

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



Jarred Prudencio, PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM  
Associate Professor & Clinical Pharmacist



**HB-2113**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:57:16 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/2/2024 2:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

The proposals in HB2113 are timely and of high value. I strongly urge the Committee to pass the bill. Mahalo