



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 20, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 2553 HD2 – Relating to Pharmacists

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2553 HD2 – Relating to Pharmacists.

The bill authorizes pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older. Authorizes pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met. Authorizes pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

Vaccines have proven to be a valuable tool in preventing various types of diseases and associated disabilities. Access to an authorized physician or nurse can be challenging, especially in certain rural communities. This bill would help to provide convenient options for parents and guardians wishing to vaccinate their children.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
and
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H. B. 2553, H.D. 2, RELATING TO PHARMACISTS**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

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

The purposes of this bill are to authorize: (1) licensed pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older; (2) pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met; and (3) pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

The Board would like to emphasize the challenges the State currently faces regarding the shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas and the neighbor islands. Pharmacies are geographically dispersed throughout the community with extended hours of operation, making access to health care provided through pharmacies readily available for patients in each locality. Patients have established relationships of trust with and recognize pharmacists as healthcare professionals. This measure will aide in the development of access to quality health care across the State, most importantly, in underserved rural areas of Hawaii.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) expanded authority to pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians. Pharmacists and properly trained staff aided in administering COVID-19 tests and vaccines in pharmacies across the State, safely expanding patient access to health care. This bill will address the upcoming expiration

of the PREP Act (December 2024) by similarly allowing pharmacists, properly trained pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to administer vaccines to those age three (3) and older. The measure will guarantee that pharmacies and staff can continue to provide the public with access to quality health services in a manner which has proven fruitful in recent years. Furthermore, the allowance for pharmacists to order vaccinations for those age three (3) and above will aid the State in meeting the rising demand for immunizations.

The Board requests the Committees align the proposed requirements related to pharmacy technicians with the standards outlined in the PREP Act. This amendment would require all pharmacy technicians providing vaccinations to be nationally certified by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Health career Association. Pharmacy technicians are currently unregulated in Hawaii; with pharmacy technicians taking on more responsibility, it is essential that consumers are provided with the same standard of care, which is mandatory under the PREP Act.

The Board acknowledges and appreciates the inclusion of a minimum of two credit hours in immunization-related continuing education courses during each licensing biennium. This requirement will ensure vaccines are properly administered even as new techniques and methods are developed. Additionally, the included required certificate of basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and patient vaccination history review will further safeguard the public from possible adverse effects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By
Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
and
Rae Matsumoto, Dean
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2553 HD2 – RELATING TO PHARMACISTS

Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2553 HD2. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2553 HD2, which authorizes pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older; pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen; and pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

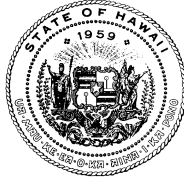
HB 2553 HD2 essentially extends the vaccination services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024. Passage of HB 2553 HD2 will ensure that the vaccination services provided by pharmacists, along with pharmacy interns and technicians under their supervision, can continue in Hawai'i after the federal emergency authorization ends. It is important to note that even when working under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, the pharmacy interns and technicians have been and will continue to be required to have specialized training to administer the vaccinations. Moreover, as different types of vaccines become available and recommended for use in children by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, they will also be covered through this legislation.

The ability to leverage the accessible vaccination services of pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians for children is significant. It has been reported that more than 90% of Americans live within 2 miles of a community pharmacy, and annually, Americans visit their pharmacy 35 times, as compared to 4 visits to their primary care provider. Since the pandemic, members of the public and other health care providers

have come to depend on pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians to provide their vaccinations. This accessibility is important because childhood vaccination rates have been decreasing, eliciting public health concerns as children and communities have become more vulnerable to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

In summary, passage of HB 2553 HD2 will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to provide vaccination services for children, which families and communities across Hawai'i need and have come to expect. Please allow us to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people of Hawai'i by passing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2553 HD2.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2553 H.D. 2
RELATING TO PHARMACISTS**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

1 Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 3/20/24, 1:00 PM, ROOM 225

2 **Fiscal Implications:** No fiscal implications determined for the Department of Health.

3 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) provides the following
5 testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vaccination coverage
7 among Hawaii Kindergarteners for routinely recommended childhood vaccines (e.g., measles,
8 mumps, and rubella; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; polio; etc.) has declined by nearly ten
9 percentage points between the period of 2017 – 2022 and remains below the U.S. national
10 average. In the effort to ensure continued expanded access to immunizations in settings such
11 as pharmacies, HDOH/DOCD supports incorporation of federal PREP Act authorizations in
12 Hawaii statute. As demonstrated during the COVID-19 public health emergency, pharmacies'
13 ability to conduct mobile/off-site vaccination clinics for seasonal vaccines such as influenza and
14 COVID-19 also ensure continued options for school-located vaccination clinics.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2553-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:44:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/20/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Pang	Testifying for Times Pharmacy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing on Wednesday, March 20th 2024 1:00PM

Testimony in **SUPPORT** for HB2553

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committees,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

Our Pharmacy was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would be severely impacted the lack of accessibility to quick service vaccinations. Through the years our communities have become comfortable with our staff and appreciate the additional services they can receive from their local pharmacy.

Lastly, pharmacy technicians should be treated as working professionals and have proven their ability when it comes to additional services such as vaccinations. They should be able to continue to vaccinate as other states have already integrated this into every day work.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Alyssa Pang

Director of Pharmacy



March 19, 2024

[submitted electronically via: capitol.hawaii.gov]

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Committee on Health and Human
Services
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protections
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services and Consumer Protection & Commerce:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on [House Bill \(HB\) 2553](#) (Rep. Takenouchi). This bill will codify pharmacists' authority to administer and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines to patients aged three years to seventeen. Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns currently have this authority in Hawai'i due to federal Declarations under the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. However, some of the federal authorities under the PREP Act, particularly for pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns, expired on May 11, 2023, and other authorities will be expiring under the Eleventh Amendment in December 2024,¹ which will interrupt access for patients who have come to rely on pharmacy personnel to administer immunizations.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession, including 2,451 licensed pharmacists in Hawaii. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care, and enhance public health. APhA represents pharmacists, students, and pharmacy technicians who practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

Hawai'i pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist have been administering vaccines for the past several years after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a declaration under the federal PREP Act for medical countermeasures against

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Eleventh Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published March 12, 2023. Available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/12/2023-10216/eleventh-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for>

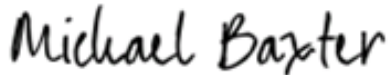
COVID-19² and then the Third,³ Fourth,⁴ Eighth,⁵ and Tenth⁶ Amendments. HHS' declarations and amendments authorized the following:

- Pharmacists (order and administer) and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist, to administer to persons ages three or older COVID-19 vaccinations and seasonal influenza vaccines that have been authorized or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Pharmacists (order and administer) and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist, to administer any vaccine that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule.

The federal authority under the PREP Act preempts state law and Hawai'ians have been receiving expanded access to vaccines provided by their local pharmacy personnel for nearly four years. HB 2553 makes this temporary federal authority permanent in Hawai'i under pharmacists', pharmacy interns,' and pharmacy technicians' state scope of practice by maintaining access to vaccinations for patients aged three years or older. HB 2553 is vital to minimize interruptions to patients' access to necessary vaccinations and ensure Hawai'i can meet its public health needs and [save](#) millions of lives and billions in preventable health care costs to Hawai'i.

For these reasons, APhA respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on HB 2553. If you have any questions or require additional information or would like to meet with Hawai'i pharmacists, please don't hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at mmurphy@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter
Vice President, Federal and State Legislative Affairs

cc: Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senator Brenton Awa
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey

² HHS. Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published March 17, 2020. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-03-17/pdf/2020-05484.pdf>.

³ HHS. Third Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published August 24, 2020. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-24/pdf/2020-18542.pdf>.

⁴ HHS. Fourth Amendment to the Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 and Republication of the Declaration. Published December 9, 2020. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-12-09/pdf/2020-26977.pdf>.

⁵ HHS. Eighth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published August 4, 2021. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-08-04/pdf/2021-16681.pdf>.

⁶ HHS. Tenth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published January 7, 2022. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-01-07/pdf/2022-00151.pdf>.

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Representative Jenna Takenouchi
Representative Micah P.K. Aiu
Representative Terez Amato
Representative Della Au Belatti
Representative Cory M. Chun
Representative Elle Cochran
Representative Luke A. Evslin
Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett
Representative Daniel Holt
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa
Representative Jeanne Kapela
Representative Darius K. Kila
Representative Lisa Kitagawa
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi
Representative Trish La Chica
Representative Rachele F. Lamosao
Representative Nicole E. Lowen
Representative Lisa Marten
Representative Rose Martinez
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi
Representative Tyson K. Miyake
Representative Dee Morikawa
Representative Mahina Poepoe
Representative Jackson D. Sayama
Representative Adrian K. Tam
Representative David A. Tarnas

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing on Wednesday, March 20th 2024 1:00PM
Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committees,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician at Times Pharmacy, was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians can provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities have become dependent upon.

In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities.

Should myself and my technician colleagues no longer be allowed to vaccinate, our workflow would become non existent .

I am an assistant as part of a mobile vaccination team. We travel throughout the community administering vaccines to the elderly and disabled. Without the vaccination services, a lot of these people would not get vaccinated due to their inability to leave their homes or beds. By us going out there, we are able to vaccinate high risk people and thus improve the wellness of our community. We live in on the Hawaiian Islands and in this isolation we have only God and each other to keep us alive.

We ask that you allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

Mahalo Nui,

Bradford Chang



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
MARCH 20, 2024**

Re: HB 2553 HD2 RELATING TO RELATING TO PHARMACISTS.

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, and Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii is in SUPPORT of HB 2553 HD2. This measure authorizes pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older; authorizes pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met; authorizes pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen; and is effective 7/1/3000.

Pharmacists are one of the most accessible healthcare providers and are a strongly trusted resource across our islands in many communities, especially those that are remote. This bill will extend the services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act aka PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024.

We would like to see what the PREP Act has started is continued through this type of legislation to ensure that pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist are able to continue to **administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and older.**

The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees did provide the services described in this bill. It is our understanding that Pharmacy Interns do receive vaccination training and obtain an immunization certificate that is the same as the nationally recognized credential as a licensed pharmacist. With this knowledge and training, we saw many interns at the Covid Vaccine sites throughout the State who were actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic, including participating in the immunization of children under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. During the pandemic pharmacy interns demonstrated that they could provide the services described in this bill. More importantly, **members of the public and other health care providers have come to depend on them to provide these services, especially now where Hawai'i is perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers.** We should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

We urge you to pass this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 1:00 p.m
Conference room 225

RE: HB 2553 HD2 - Relating to Pharmacists – In Support

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

CVS Health is writing in support of HB 2553 HD2, which authorizes pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older; authorizes pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met; and authorizes pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

This bill is a positive step in providing increased and equitable access to vaccinations approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to pediatric patients. The increased access to vaccinations at pharmacies will support the patients of Hawaii by providing critical disease prevention.

Pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians should be allowed to administer all vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist, while under the supervision of a pharmacist. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) expanded authority to pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians. They have demonstrated their clinical ability to safely administer vaccinations. HB 2553 HD2 will codify this allowance in State law and address the December 2024 expiration of the PREP Act by similarly allowing pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to continue to administer vaccinations to those three years old and above.

On behalf of CVS Health, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and ask for your favorable consideration in passing HB 2553 HD2 to ensure expanded and equitable access to immunizations.

Respectfully,

Carla Saporta Cheng
Senior Director of State Government Affairs
CVS Health



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 20, 2024

TO: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Tiffany Yajima / Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 2553, H.D.2 – Relating to Pharmacists**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 225

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Joint Committees:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates stores at more than 8,200 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens now has 19 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

Walgreens submits the following testimony in **support** of H.B. 2553, H.D.2. This bill authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen if certain requirements are met, and authorizes licensed pharmacists to order and administer vaccines to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government issued the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) in 2020. Pursuant to the PREP Act, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns have been safely administering these vaccinations in the pharmacy setting. When the PREP Act expires at the end of 2024, this important health care service will no longer be available to persons ages three through ten. As a result, this limitation will have an impact on youth access to vaccinations, particularly in rural communities where pharmacies serve as crucial access points for health care.

Walgreens supports the preservation of these pharmacy services in state statute and asks the committee to pass the bill for further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.
EST. 1935

March 20, 2024

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553, HD2 – RELATING TO PHARMACISTS – Vaccination Administration

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection:

As a rural healthcare provider, access to comprehensive, high-quality health care services is our mission at Moloka'i Drugs. On behalf of our employees and patients, I am testifying in favor of HB2553, which will allow our professional staff to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. We are currently immunizing children from 14-17 years old with signed permission from a parent or guardian. We also support HB2553 as it ensures our pharmacists and our professional staff will be able to continue administering vaccines after the temporary federal authority to administer expires.

This bill will also help our island's residents with six-days-a-week access. Moloka'i Drugs is open Monday to Saturday and services all customers needing vaccines. Currently, only two facilities -- Moloka'i General Hospital's Outpatient Clinic and Moloka'i Community Health Center -- vaccinate children under 14; you need to make an appointment in advance and registered as a patient of either medical facility. Both are open only Monday to Friday and closed on all major holidays.

At Moloka'i Drugs, all of our vaccinations are completed in a private, immunization room we specifically built in 2021. All of our vaccines are available via walk-in and no appointment is necessary.

We are asked by parents if we can give flu or other shots to their children. Pre-COVID-19, Moloka'i public school students were able to garner flu shots at their schools. Post-COVID-19, this is not an option.

Moloka'i is a medically underserved area and it is critical that we have access to serving our children. Moloka'i Drugs is here to serve our children. Therefore, we ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to immunize from age three and vote in support of HB2553. It is critical that we increase access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services on all islands.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mikami Svetin /s/

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



Testimony presented before the
Senate Committees on Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services
March 20, 2024

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

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committee,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of HB2553 and to offer the unwavering support of the Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA).

HPhA acknowledges the pressing need for this measure, particularly in addressing the ongoing provider shortage in our state, specifically in remote and medically underserved areas. We would like to underscore that providers and patients alike have become increasingly dependent on the accessibility and expertise of community pharmacies in delivering essential vaccination services.

Since enactment of the PREP Act, the success of community pharmacy led vaccination efforts has become evident with positive outcomes contributing to public health. It is essential to recognize that this has not only improved access but has also become an integral component of Hawaii's public health infrastructure.

Points for consideration specifically surrounding documentation and training:

- All vaccinations administered in a community pharmacy must be reported to the Hawaii State Immunization Registry (HIR) within 5 business days. **All providers can gain access to HIR to prevent gaps in communication and vaccination duplication.**
- Though the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) does not currently regulate pharmacy technicians, the responsibility of vaccine immunization ultimately falls underneath the pharmacist, not the DCCA. There would be no additional workload required by the DCCA. **This is similar to medical assistants, also not regulated by the DCCA, that are vaccinating in other settings underneath the direct supervision of a licensed healthcare provider.**
- Pharmacy technicians and interns are currently required to become nationally certified in immunization administration prior to vaccinating patients. This is also mandated in HB2553.
- There is a shortage of pharmacy technicians across the state, and vaccination authorities provide opportunities for increased salaries and professional growth that currently are lacking.
- Vaccination administration allows for community pharmacies to have an additional revenue stream outside of medication dispensing, which is significantly impactful for our independent community pharmacies in remote locations.
- There is literature from the Pacific Research Institute that supports shifting vaccinations to pharmacies significantly reduces costs to both health systems and patients. ¹

1. Wingarden W. Promoting Access and Lowering Costs in Healthcare: The Case of Empowering Pharmacists to Increase Adult Vaccination Rates; 2018. Accessed Jan 28, 2024. Accessed from: https://www.pacificresearch.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/04/AdultVaccination_F_web.pdf



Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns have proven themselves capable, providing a reliable and accessible avenue for vaccination services in Hawai'i for nearly four years. Discontinuation would create a void in healthcare delivery, leading to potential delays in immunization and exacerbating existing healthcare disparities. **It would be a public health concern to abruptly remove these provisions from the healthcare teams, including pharmacy interns and technicians, that have already established proof of concept in their ability to provide vaccinations to our communities.**

The only amendment we suggest to the latest version is to provide consistency by referring to all ages as "three and older."

We look forward to working towards a solution that leverages the community pharmacy workforce to continue this necessary initiative for years to come.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrie L. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

1. Wingarden W. Promoting Access and Lowering Costs in Healthcare: The Case of Empowering Pharmacists to Increase Adult Vaccination Rates; 2018. Accessed Jan 28, 2024. Accessed from: https://www.pacificresearch.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/04/AdultVaccination_F_web.pdf

HB-2553-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 11:34:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/20/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the passage of HB2553 HD2 as written. Mahalo

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:00 PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair San Buenaventura and members the Committee on Health and Human Services, and Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to be involved in vaccine efforts that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians are valuable team members and are in engaged in dispensing and administering vaccinations to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mark Mierzwa, PharmD, BCPP

HB-2553-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:37:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/20/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayleen Barino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2553 because every parent has the right to make a decision concerning their child's health and personally act in their best interest. This bill takes away the essential right of a parent giving consent and violates an individual's freedom to choose what is best for their child/children.

Hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 01:00 PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a Clinical Pharmacy Manager at Times, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

This bill also means a lot to me even at my personal level because our Mobile Vaccination Clinic Team has been providing many vaccinations to children at the schools. While their parents might be working and too busy to take them to pediatrician for vaccinations, our team is able to assist them in a timely manner. We always receive great feedbacks from the parents in regard to how they trust our team and having mobile vaccination clinics at schools is very convenient for them. If and when this bill passes, we will be able to continue providing vaccinations to children in order to increase the vaccination rate in our communities and to protect the children from vaccine preventable diseases.

Thank you for your consideration and I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Mia Tran-Cao

Mia Tran-Cao, Pharm. D.

Clinical Pharmacy Manager

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03/18/2024

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing on Wednesday, March 20th 2024 1:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committees,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions since COVID, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician at KTA Superstores on the Big Island, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. In order to be able to take the national immunization training for pharmacy technicians, you need to first be a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians with proper training can provide the services described in this bill, under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. Providers and our communities have become dependent upon the increased services provided at pharmacies. This bill is critical to sustain the community pharmacy work force.

In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities. MA's in doctor's office are allowed to do this, with no certifications or requirements.

Should myself and my technician colleagues no longer be allowed to vaccinate, our workflow would become even more burdensome on the pharmacist and the patients, delaying how many vaccinations can be done in a given time. There is data from the CDC showing low vaccination rates in many areas of Hawaii, why would we go backwards now to hinder the efforts of increased vaccination rates that are proven to prevent disease and lower healthcare cost in the long run.

Here on the Big Island, we serve very remote and rural communities. Everyone talks about increasing access on rural health. At KTA we are doing just that, going to the communities to provide these services, Pahala, Na'alehu, Miloli'i, Kealakekua, Captain Cook, Kona, Kohala, Waikoloa, Waimea, Honokaa, Paauilo, Laupahoehoe, Honomu, Pepeekeo, Papa'ikou, Hilo, Waiakea, Kaumana, Kea'au, HPP, Paho, Nanawale, Volcano. All of these places I have listed, we have gone to them, either an employer clinic, community health fair, or home-visit. A pharmacist and a CPhT who is able to vaccinate. We are making a difference.

Also, pharmacy technicians play a crucial role in a pharmacy, ask any community pharmacist if you don't believe me. With the huge demand placed on community pharmacies and burnout happening, maintaining and recruiting pharmacy technicians has been a challenge. By passing this bill, we can work on promotion pathways and long-term careers for individuals as a technician. I recently got a grant with HPhA and PTCB to work on this exact initiative. Let's pass this bill and move the needle forward on increased access to care for ALL. Pharmacist and pharmacy technicians are on the front lines every day and so easily accessible by the public.

Please allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people through preventative measures, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

Thank you so much for your time!!

Christina Requelman

Christina Method Requelman
KTA Superstores Pharmacy – Big Island - CPhT
University of Hawaii at Hilo, The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy – Experiential Office

HB-2553-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:45:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/20/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing on Wednesday, March 20 th 2024 1:00PM

Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committees,

I am testifying in **strong support of HB2553** which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist and faculty at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, I was actively involved in the immunization efforts during the pandemic as the College of Pharmacy worked alongside the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, the DOH, and the Medical Reserve Corps to provide COVID-19 vaccination pods to quickly immunize and protect the Hawai‘i community. After completing the initial roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines, the need for vaccinations have not decreased. The PREP Act was put in place because of the decreased number of childhood vaccines seen in the years post-COVID-19 and the need to improve healthcare access to better protect our keiki and community. With the known physician shortage in Hawai‘i, it is imperative that we not reduce healthcare access.

Should the PREP Act be allowed to expire, we will likely see declining rates of childhood and other routine vaccinations, especially in rural areas. Continuing the terms of the PREP act, including the ability for certified pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations, will help to provide continued support and healthcare access to the remote and medically underserved. Continuing the eligibility of pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to children, the workflow in the community pharmacies will also be enhanced, as there are a growing number of routine vaccinations recommended each year. Additionally, the rate of vaccine preventable cancers will also decrease. HPV and Hepatitis B are known causes of cancer, and we are doing our community a disservice if we remove access to the prevention of infection and cancers.

I fully support this bill to allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawai‘i.

Nicole Young, PharmD

Associate Professor

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing on Wednesday, March 20th 2024 1:00PM

Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committees,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a community based ambulatory care pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. During the pandemic, my work days would often involve doing community based "home visits" to provide immunizations to home-bound patients. This service was greatly needed and appreciated by the community, and I truly cannot begin to imagine what many of these home-bound patients would have faced without this pharmacy support. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives. Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would have significant decreased access to preventative healthcare.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Thank you,

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing on Wednesday, March 20th 2024 1:00PM
Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura and members of the committees,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians are valuable team members and are engaged in dispensing and administering vaccinations to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lehua Kay, PharmD

HB-2553-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:26:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/20/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Pellegrin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy interns under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met. This bill will extend the services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024.

Many thanks,

Karen Pellegrin