



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 Health and Human Services
Monday, March 10, 2025 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 72 HD2 – RELATING TO PHARMACY

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 72 HD2. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 72 HD2, which will require the registration of pharmacy technicians through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Pharmacy technicians are career professionals working under the supervision of a pharmacist, and have an essential role in the daily operation of pharmacies.

Hawai'i is the only state that does not maintain a list of practicing pharmacy technicians. Legislation to address this oversight is important for supporting public health and safety by ensuring that these essential health care workers have the appropriate background and supervision, can receive timely communications and updates regarding relevant practice and regulation changes that impact their work, and facilitate access to training opportunities as the scope of practice of pharmacy technicians expands nationwide.

We would like to emphasize that pharmacy technicians are professionals and represent a distinct category from pharmacy interns who are students in training to become future pharmacists. As career professionals in the health care workforce, pharmacy technicians perform functions under the supervision of pharmacists and may include roles such as dispensing medications, processing insurance claims, preparing sterile compounds such as intravenous (IV) solutions and chemotherapy, and with additional certifications, administering vaccines to patients. As career professionals in the health care workforce, the registration of pharmacy technicians is warranted and appropriate for the level of responsibility and trust afforded by the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 72 HD2.

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, March 10, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H. B. 72, H.D. 2, RELATING TO PHARMACY**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board voted unanimously to support this measure but requests amendments.

The purpose of this bill beginning 1/1/2026 is to: (1) require pharmacy technicians to be registered; (2) impose a duty on pharmacists-in-charge to report violations conducted by registered pharmacy technicians; and (3) specify that supervising registered pharmacists are responsible for the actions of registered pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns.

The Board supports this measure's intent to regulate pharmacy technicians. The Board recently formed a permitted interaction group to look at the best methods to regulate pharmacy technicians for quality and general assurance. The group noted the need to recognize national certifications provided by entities such as the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board, while still acknowledging the presence of local technicians who have received extensive on the job training.

The Board agreed that a registration for all technicians may be a prudent initial step regarding the regulation of pharmacy technicians. An expansion to the scope of practice to technicians that are nationally certified should also be recognized. The expansion should include allowances such as those provided in Act 104 of the 2024 legislative session.

To align the measure with the Board's current Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the Board requests the term "direct" be removed from page 4, line 7, and page 9, line 5. The Board also requests the term "physically present" be removed from page

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

H.B. 72, H.D. 2

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4, line 10. The Board's HAR already sufficiently clarifies supervision requirements while allowing flexibility to address any potential changes in the practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 9, 2025

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Henry Aquino
Vice Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **H.B. 72, H.D.2 - Relating to Pharmacy**
Hearing Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 225

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Walgreens submits this testimony in **support** of H.B. 72, H.D.2, which requires pharmacy technicians to be registered with the state. Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”) operates stores at more than 9,000 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens has 13 stores on the islands of Oahu and Maui.

Walgreens supports the amendments made in the H.D.1 and H.D.2 to adopt a definition of “auxiliary personnel” for personnel such as cashiers whose responsibilities are purely clerical in nature, to clarify the specific duties of a pharmacy technician, to clarify pharmacist supervision of a technician, to establish the specific functions of a pharmacy technician in statute, and to exempt this measure from the requirements of a sunrise analysis.

Pharmacy technicians play an important role in the pharmacy setting by handling a range of tasks that allow pharmacists to focus on more complex responsibilities like patient consultations and clinical services. For example, pharmacy technicians can assist pharmacists with the preparation, dispensing, and managing of patient medications. Typically, pharmacy technician tasks include filling prescriptions, labeling and packaging medications, managing medication inventory, and performing administrative duties such as record-keeping and insurance processing.

The 2024 Legislature passed Act 104 that allows, in part, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns the ability to administer immunizations and vaccinations to persons three years and older under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. This measure builds upon Act 104 to require that pharmacy technicians are registered by the state. This important measure will bring a regulatory framework to the critical role that pharmacy technicians fill, which Walgreens supports. For these reasons, we ask the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
March 10, 2025

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

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association (HPhA) **strongly supports HB72 with minor amendments**, which will require the registration of pharmacy technicians through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. **Currently, Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without an active and managed registry of practicing pharmacy technicians.** This lack of oversight presents challenges in ensuring consistent training, competency, and accountability within the pharmacy technician workforce. By mandating a registration process, HB72 enhances patient safety, improves workforce standards, and aligns Hawai'i with national best practices.

Pharmacy technicians play an essential role in supporting pharmacists and ensuring the safe and efficient delivery of medications. Under the supervision of a pharmacist in the community setting, pharmacy technicians can fill and dispense medications, process insurance claims, and with additional training, administer vaccinations. In the hospital setting, we rely on pharmacy technicians to support the compounding of intravenous medications and to stock medication cabinets and other medication delivery systems. Pharmacy technicians often have full access to high risk and controlled medications.

As the roles of pharmacy technicians expand across the country, including here in Hawai'i, it's vital to ensure these essential workers meet a baseline level of competency to ensure patient safety and enhance patient care. Additionally, establishing a technician registry will create a vital data repository that enables clear communication of regulatory and practice updates, ensuring the workforce remains aligned with evolving state and federal requirements.

HPhA believes that HB72 is a crucial step toward strengthening Hawai'i's healthcare infrastructure. We feel strongly given the current roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians, to include vaccine administration starting January of 2025, that this bill be swiftly implemented to ensure pharmacy technicians can continue to serve patients with the highest level of professionalism and safety.

We suggest the following minor amendments in alignment with those proposed by the Board of Pharmacy:

- Removal of 'continuing education requirements' in Section 5, as specific requirements are not specified elsewhere within the bill.
- Removal of the term "direct" be removed page 4, line 7, and page 9, line 5.
- Removal of the term "physically present" from page 4, line 10.

On behalf of The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association, mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrie Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Dr. Corrie L. Sanders, PharmD., BCACP, CPGx
Executive Director, Hawai'i Pharmacists Association

Date: March 8, 2025

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: **Support for HB72 HD2**, Relating to Pharmacy

Hrg: Monday March 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

As a licensed Hawai'i pharmacist, retired Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy faculty and member of the East Hawai'i community, I am writing in **strong support of HB72 HD2**, beginning 1/1/2026, requires pharmacy technicians to be registered; imposes a duty on pharmacists-in-charge to report violations conducted by registered pharmacy technicians; and, specifies that supervising registered pharmacists are responsible for the actions of registered pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns.

Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians, leaving a significant gap in oversight that can impact patient safety. **HB72 HD2** aligns with national pharmacy technician regulation standards to strengthen pharmacy practice in Hawai'i.

HB72 HD2 serves as the backbone for consistent standards of training and competency across the profession. Creation of a pharmacy technician data repository is an essential step forward, providing a centralized resource for communicating practice and regulatory changes.

Beyond enhancing patient safety, **HB72 HD2** lays the foundation for pharmacy technicians in Hawai'i to expand their scope of practice in the future. Across the country, registered pharmacy technicians are taking on advanced roles. Without regulation, Hawai'i cannot adopt these changes and risks falling behind in providing the best possible care to our communities.

HB72 HD2 represents a prudent investment in the safety, efficiency, and adaptability of our pharmacy workforce into the future.

I **strongly support HB72 HD2**, respectfully ask you to pass it out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:01:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

As a pharmacist in Hawai'i, I strongly support HB72, which seeks to establish critical regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians, leaving a significant gap in oversight that can impact patient safety. Pharmacy technicians play an essential role in supporting pharmacists and ensuring the safe preparation and delivery of medications, and this initiative will serve as the backbone for consistent standards of training and competency across the profession. Additionally, the creation of a pharmacy technician data repository is

an essential step forward, providing a centralized resource for communicating practice and regulatory changes.

Beyond enhancing patient safety, HB72 will lay the foundation for pharmacy technicians in Hawai'i to expand their scope of practice in the future. Across the country, pharmacy technicians are taking on advanced roles, such as administering immunizations and assisting with medication management. Without regulation, Hawai'i cannot adapt to these changes and risks falling behind in providing the best possible care to our communities. This initiative comes at a reasonable cost and represents a prudent investment in ensuring the safety, efficiency, and adaptability of our pharmacy workforce. I urge the Committee to support HB72 and help Hawai'i align with national pharmacy technician regulation standards to strengthen pharmacy practice in our state.

Lara Gomez, PharmD

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:31:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB72 HD2 as written. Mahalo

LATE

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dillon Solliday, and I am a final-year student in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. I write to express my support for HB72, which would require the registration of pharmacy technicians in Hawai'i.

As a student pharmacist preparing to enter the profession, I have had firsthand experience working alongside pharmacy technicians in many community and hospital settings on O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Islands. Pharmacy technicians are an integral part of the healthcare workforce and are vital to ensuring the safe and efficient operation of pharmacies. Hawai'i is currently the only state in the country that does not require registration of pharmacy technicians, creating potential risks for medication errors. Adopting HB72 would reduce healthcare risks and align Hawai'i with national best practices.

Beyond patient safety, implementing registration for pharmacy technicians would provide valuable data for workforce development. Without a formal registry, there is little visibility into the number of technicians working in the state, their training levels, or their distribution across the islands. This lack of information makes it difficult to assess workforce needs and implement policies to support pharmacy professionals effectively. By requiring registration, Hawai'i would gain critical insights that can help reduce future shortages of crucial healthcare workers, leading to better health outcomes for patients throughout the state.

As a future pharmacist, I am committed to providing the highest standard of care to my patients. The registration of pharmacy technicians is a necessary measure to ensure that pharmacies across the state operate with safety and professionalism. I respectfully urge the committee to support HB72 for the benefit of patients, pharmacists, and the healthcare system as a whole.

Sincerely,

Dillon Solliday

Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate

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

LATE

Testimony for HB72-HD1: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
Committee on Health and Human Services
Sunday, March 9, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72-HD2

To the Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

As a pharmacist practicing in Hawai'i, I strongly support HB72-HD2, which seeks to establish critical regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. In my practice, pharmacy technicians are essential in performing the following tasks that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy. Without quality technicians, the pharmacy cannot operate efficiently and effectively for the patients in the communities we serve.

Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians, leaving a significant gap in oversight that can impact patient safety. Meaning any unlicensed person can legally work in a pharmacy with no formal training. Few technicians have independently sought out national technician certifications, but there's a vast amount that lack the skills necessary to assist and support the pharmacy workflow. Pharmacy technicians play an essential role in supporting pharmacists and ensuring the safe preparation and delivery of medications, and this initiative will serve as the backbone for consistent standards of training and competency across the profession. Additionally, the creation of a pharmacy technician data repository, is an essential step forward, providing a centralized resource for communicating practice and regulatory changes.

Beyond enhancing patient safety, HB72-HD2 will lay the foundation for pharmacy technicians in Hawai'i to expand their scope of practice in the future. Across the country, pharmacy technicians are taking on advanced roles, such as administering immunizations and assisting with medication management. Without regulation, Hawai'i cannot adapt to these changes and risks falling behind in providing the best possible care to our communities. This initiative comes at a reasonable cost and represents a prudent investment in ensuring the safety, efficiency, and adaptability of our pharmacy workforce.

I urge the Committee to support HB72-HD2 and help Hawai'i align with national pharmacy technician regulation standards to strengthen pharmacy practice in our state.

Sincerely,



Faith Hicks, Pharm D.

Pharmacy Practice Instructor, The Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy

Relief Pharmacist, KTA Pharmacy