

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, March 27, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H. B. 72, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO PHARMACY**

Chair Keohokalole 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.

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.

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
Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 72 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO PHARMACY

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 72 HD2 SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 72 HD2 SD1, 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 SD1.

HB-72-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 3:13:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/27/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In full support of HB72 HD2 SD1. Mahalo

HB-72-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 9:04:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/27/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

March 27, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

As a pharmacist practicing in Hawai‘i, I strongly support HB72, which seeks to establish critical regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. Pharmacy technicians are essential in performing the following tasks that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:46:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/27/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

Date: March 24, 2025

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: **Support for HB72 HD2 SD1**, Relating to Pharmacy

Hrg: Thursday March 27, 2025 at 9:30 am Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

As a licensed Hawai'i pharmacist and retired Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy faculty, I am writing in **strong support of HB72 HD2 SD1**, which 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.

Pharmacy technicians play an essential role in supporting pharmacists and ensuring the safe preparation and delivery of medications across 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. **HB72 HD2 SD1** aligns with national pharmacy technician regulation standards to strengthen pharmacy practice in Hawai'i.

HB72 HD2 SD1 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 SD1** 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 SD1 represents a prudent investment in the safety, efficiency, and adaptability of our pharmacy workforce into the future.

I **strongly support HB72 HD2 SD1**, respectfully ask you to approve it.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

DATE: March 25, 2025

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

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

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **H.B. 72, HD2, SD1 – Relating to Pharmacy**
Decision Making Hearing Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Walgreens submits this testimony in **support** of H.B. 72, HD2, SD1, 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 this measure which adopts a definition of “auxiliary personnel” for personnel such as cashiers whose responsibilities are purely clerical in nature, clarifies the specific duties of a pharmacy technician, clarifies a pharmacist’s supervision of a technician, establishes the specific functions of a pharmacy technician in statute, and exempts this measure from the requirements of a sunrise analysis due to the exigent need for technician regulation.

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.

LATE

HB-72-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:29:22 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/27/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Jarret Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

As a pharmacist practicing in Hawai‘i, I strongly support HB72, which seeks to establish critical regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. In my practice, pharmacy technicians are essential in performing the tasks that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy, such as compound medications.

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.

Sincerely,

Nicole Young, PharmD

Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Critical Care Pharmacist

LATE

HB-72-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:25:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/27/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support HB72, which seeks to establish critical regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state.

Many thanks,

Karen Pellegrin

LATE

Testimony in Support of HB72 with Amendments to require registration for Pharmacy Technicians
Hearing Date: March 25, 2025
Committee: Hawaii State Senate CPN Committee
Submitted by: Alanna Isobe

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB72, which would require pharmacy technicians to be registered by the board of pharmacy.

Hawaii is one of two states that do not require any sort of certification or registration. Registration would be the first step towards regulating the employees who work in Hawaii's pharmacies. Nationwide, the scope of practice for both pharmacists and pharmacy techs have expanded, and with this comes increased responsibilities and requirements.

This bill will also require the pharmacist in charge to report violations conducted by registered technicians. Currently, there is no requirement for reporting, so violators can easily move from one pharmacy to another. Pharmacy technicians have access to controlled substances. Diversion amongst health care workers has been a problem for the past decade and the diversion by pharmacy personnel is no different.

In conclusion, I fully support HB72 because it will protect the pharmacy patients of Hawaii by taking this initial step toward regulating the pharmacy technicians. As roles and responsibilities change, we can rest assured that the right safeguards are in place.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to pass HB72.

Sincerely,
Alanna Isobe
Pharmacist

LATE

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, March 27, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

As a pharmacist practicing in Hawai'i, I strongly support HB72, which seeks to mandate registration for pharmacy technicians in our state. In my practice, pharmacy technicians are essential in performing the non-clinical pharmacy tasks (packaging products, answering phones, addressing customers, stocking shelves, etc...) that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy.

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, so by requiring registration with the state there will be more accountability in practice for each technician. Additionally, having pharmacy technicians registering with the state will create a data repository which 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 be better able 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.

Sincerely,



Joy Matsuyama, PharmD, BCPS
Clinical Services Manager
Pharmacare International

LATE

Testimony for HB72-HD2-SD1: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

3/25/2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72-HD2-SD1

To the Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

As a pharmacy student and future pharmacist, I strongly support HB72, which will establish the registration of pharmacy technicians in our state. Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians.

The registration of pharmacy technicians is important for protecting patient safety because pharmacy technicians are essential team members who are critical to the workflow of a pharmacy. Working under the supervision of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians perform important functions such as preparing and delivering medications safely and accurately, preparing and dispensing medications, using technology to print labels and enter crucial patient data, safely managing pharmacy inventory, processing prescriptions, processing insurance claims, and communicating with patients.

Having a list of registered pharmacy technicians is absolutely crucial because it works toward promoting patient safety and maintaining minimum standards of training and competency across the profession. As pharmacy technicians expand their scope of practice and take on advanced roles across the country, Hawai'i risks falling behind in providing an expected level of care in our communities without additional safeguards. Many people who are employed in schools and other industries where their work impacts public safety are also regulated.

Given the important role of pharmacy technicians and their impact on the public, this initiative comes at a reasonable cost and represents a prudent investment in ensuring the safety, efficiency, adaptability, and quality of our pharmacy workforce. I urge the Committee to support HB72 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With respect,

David S. Kuhnen
Student Pharmacist, Class of 2027
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy