



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 Judiciary
Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

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

HB 2553 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO PHARMACISTS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2553 HD2 SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports the intent of HB 2553 HD2 SD1 with suggested amendments, which are in alignment with the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association and Board of Pharmacy. This bill 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 SD1 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 SD1 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 immunizations. 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.

We recommend that on page 10, lines 16-17, Section 4, subsection (a)(4) be amended as follows: "The [pharmacy intern or] pharmacy technician has a Certified Pharmacy Technician certification from either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or National Healthcareer Association."

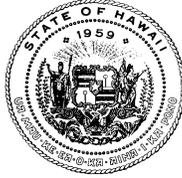
The Certified Pharmacy Technician certification only applies to pharmacy technicians and not interns who have a different license approved by the Board of Pharmacy.

We also recommend that the language in the bill refers to “persons three years of age or older” throughout, in contrast to mixed usage with “persons between the ages of three and seventeen” in some sections. This will ensure that the ability to order and administer vaccinations per this bill will be held to the same standard for all age groups.

The ability of families to leverage the accessible vaccination services of pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians 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 also 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 SD1 will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to provide vaccination services for children and their families, which 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 SD1.



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, S.D.1
RELATING TO PHARMACISTS

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

1 Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 4/4/24, 10:00 AM, ROOM 016

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.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, April 4, 2024; 10:00 a.m.
Conference room 016

RE: HB 2553 HD2 SD1 - Relating to Pharmacists – In Support

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

CVS Health is writing in support of HB 2553 HD2 SD1, 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 SD1 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 SD1 to ensure expanded and equitable access to immunizations.

Respectfully,

Carla Saporta Cheng
Senior Director of State Government Affairs
CVS Health

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

**On the following measure:
H. B. 2553, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO PHARMACISTS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board supports 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 that “pharmacy intern” be deleted from page 11, line 19, as pharmacy interns do not need to be certified pharmacy technicians, and receive appropriate training while in pharmacy school. The Board supports the inclusion of requirements related to pharmacy technicians as it will align standards as outlined in the PREP Act. This requirement will guarantee all pharmacy technicians providing vaccinations, be nationally certified by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Healthcareer Association. Pharmacy technicians are currently unregulated in Hawaii and with pharmacy technicians taking on more responsibility, it is essential that consumers are provided with the same standard of care that was 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.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

April 4, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

House Bill 2553 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Pharmacists

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2553 HD2 SD1 – 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 TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
APRIL 4, 2024**

Re: HB 2553 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO RELATING TO PHARMACISTS.

Good morning, Chair Rhoads, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. 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 SD1. 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.

Extending the provisions of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to allow pharmacy interns and technicians to administer vaccinations to individuals aged three and older aligns with the demonstrated capabilities and training they have received. The pandemic highlighted the effectiveness of utilizing pharmacy interns in vaccination efforts, and their involvement was crucial in meeting the healthcare needs of communities, especially during times of healthcare worker shortages.

Furthermore, 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.

Continuing the provisions established by the PREP Act will not only help maintain the momentum of vaccination efforts but also ensure that communities have access to trusted healthcare providers in their local pharmacies. It's essential to recognize the valuable contributions of pharmacy interns and technicians and provide the necessary support and resources to enable them to continue providing these vital healthcare services under the guidance of licensed pharmacists.

We urge you to pass this measure.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:47:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on 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.

Our Pharmacist were 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.

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,

Alyssa Pang, Director of Pharmacy

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



MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.

EST. 1935

April 2, 2024

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

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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/guardian. We also support HB2553 as it ensures our pharmacists and our pharmacy technicians will be able to continue administering vaccines after the temporary federal authority PREP Act 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



April 3, 2024

[submitted electronically via: capitol.hawaii.gov]

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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 or older. 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, vital federal authorities under the PREP Act expired on May 11, 2023, and other federal authorities for pharmacy teams 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 over four years. While pharmacists (order and administer) and pharmacy technicians' and pharmacy interns' authority to administer to persons ages three or older COVID-19 vaccinations and seasonal influenza vaccines continue until December 2024, pharmacy personnel's (interns' and technicians') authority to administer other ACIP-recommended vaccines to persons ages three through 18 ended on May 11, 2023. HB2553 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. HB2553 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 Hawai'ians' lives and preventable health care costs to Hawai'i.

For these reasons, APhA respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on HB2553. 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 Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

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 Brandon J.C. Elefante
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senator Brenton Awa
Representative Jenna Takenouchi



Corrie L. Sanders on behalf of The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association
Testimony in Support of HB2553 – Senate Judiciary Committee
April 4, 2024 at 10:00am

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary 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.
- 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.
- 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

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.

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

The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association recommends the following amendments:

- **Section 4 subsection (a)(4) be amended as follows: “The ~~[pharmacy intern or]~~ pharmacy technician has a Certified Pharmacy Technician certification from either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or National Healthcareer Association.”**
 - Consistent with the verbiage of the PREP Act that this requirement is contained to pharmacy technicians as pharmacy interns have a separate certification process that is consistent with those across the country at other schools of pharmacy.
- **Modification of language to be consistent throughout the document to “persons three years of age or older” as opposed interchanging with “persons between the ages of three and seventeen”.**
 - This will ensure that requirements to order and administer vaccinations are consistent across all age groups.

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,



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

April 3, 2024

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 98613

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 2553 – PHARAMCISTS VACCINATION AUTHORITIES

Chairperson Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **HB 2553**, a bill allows licensed pharmacies to independently order and administer vaccines to individuals 3 years and older. We **SUPPORT** this bill as it ensures pharmacists will be able to continue administering vaccines and testing after their temporary federal authority to administer expires in **December 2024**.

NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including owners of more than 19,400 independent community pharmacies across the United States and 160 independent pharmacies in Minnesota. These Hawaii pharmacies filled over 3 million prescriptions last year, impacting the lives of thousands of patients in your state. Over 90% of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy,¹ and more than any other segment of the pharmacy industry, independent community pharmacies are often located in underserved rural and urban areas. These pharmacies are frequently the most accessible healthcare providers in many Hawaii communities and are vital in the provision of immunizations, testing, and other services. This bill will not only allow pharmacies to expand their vaccination capacity but could also be an opportunity for patients without a medical home or primary care provider to be plugged in to the healthcare system and to access other services they might not otherwise receive.

With over 900 pharmacists practicing within Hawaii, approval of this legislation will allow pharmacists, pharmacy personnel, and pharmacies to meet the demand for health care services and continue to be a gateway for patients to access quality care. Hawaii pharmacists have been administering vaccines since October 2020, when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance related to the HHS Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19.

This federal guidance also authorized qualified pharmacy technicians, acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist, to administer Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccines to persons ages three or older and to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed ACIP-recommended vaccines to persons ages three through 18 according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP's) standard

¹ NCPDP Pharmacy File, ArcGIS Census Tract File, NACDS Economics Department.

immunization schedule.² In August 2021, this temporary federal authority was expanded to authorize qualified pharmacy technicians to administer seasonal influenza vaccines, under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist, to persons ages 19 and older consistent with ACIP recommendations.³

As beneficial as this temporary federal authority has been in expanding access to care and relieving some of the burden on an overstressed healthcare system, it is set to expire in **December 2024**. Approval of this bill will make this temporary federal authority permanent under state scope of practice, and it expands the authority to cover adult immunizations beyond influenza and COVID-19 as well.

NCPA strongly supports the Hawaii Pharmacists Association in their advocacy to make the federal PREP ACT authorities permanent for Hawaii pharmacists to order and administer vaccinations. We appreciate the committee's attention to this important public health, and we urge approval from its members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belawoe Akwakoku". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Belawoe Akwakoku
Associate Director, State Government Affairs
National Community Pharmacists Association

² Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing (October 20, 2020), <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>

³ Eighth Amendment to Declaration Under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 (August 4, 2021), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-08-04/pdf/2021-16681.pdf>



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: April 4, 2024

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Tiffany Yajima / Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 2553, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 – Relating to Pharmacists**
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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, S.D.1. 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.

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing on Wednesday, April 4th 2024 10:00 AM
Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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, Pharm. D.

Clinical Pharmacy Manager

1620 North School Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

P: (808) 832-8257

F: (808) 832-8268

E: mtran@times-supermarket.com

04/01/2024

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:03:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing on Wednesday, April 4 th 2024 10:00PM
Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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

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

Hearing on Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:00 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553 HD2, SD1

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIR SENATOR RHOADS, VICE CHAIR SENATOR GABBARD AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 HD2,SD1 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 at KTA Pharmacy, 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 lose crucial accessibility of vaccination administration to pediatric patients at their local pharmacies. Many patients have expressed extreme gratitude and appreciation for being able to vaccinate their families at the pharmacy. Doctors and other healthcare professionals have expressed similar sentiment as it reduces their workday demand and allows them to provide additional services. Both doctors and patients have become dependent on pharmacists administering vaccines to pediatric patients. Many families present to the pharmacy with or without recommendations by other healthcare professionals. It has become the norm to get all vaccines from the pharmacy, and it is convenient for those who live far from town but close to their local pharmacies.

Lastly, pharmacy technicians play a crucial role in the pharmacy workflow process. Without them, the pharmacy would not run smoothly, and patients would not be able to get quality patient care they deserve. As prescription volume and responsibilities of a pharmacist increases, the need for pharmacy technician assistance increases. When given an incentive, technicians were willing to assist the pharmacist in vaccine administration to ensure workflow remains efficient.

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,



Faith Hicks, Pharm D.
Pharmacy Practice Instructor
& Relief Pharmacist
KTA Superstores

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing on Wednesday, April 4th 2024 10:00AM

Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:14:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Shibata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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 at Times Aiea Pharmacy, 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 Hawaii 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. We are conveniently located with more flexible hours than a physician's office, to meet the demands of our people.

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 HB2553.

Sincerely,

Carrie Shibata

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing on Wednesday, April 4th 2024 10:00AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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, Pepekeo, 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 Method Reuelman

KTA Superstores Pharmacy – Big Island - CPhT

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

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing on Wednesday, April 4th 2024 10:00AM
Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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 pharmacy resident at a large health system in Hawai'i, 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 lose access to a highly utilized and convenient service. Most pharmacies do not require an appointment for vaccinations, often provide extended service hours, and have many locations. As someone who was a pharmacy intern and student during the pandemic on the Island of Hawai'i, I had firsthand experience with the amount of pediatric vaccinations that were provided. To take that ability away will be detrimental to the rural areas that rely more heavily on pharmacies for vaccination services.

Having the opportunity to work with technicians who were able to administer vaccinations during the pandemic greatly improved the amount of time I was able to focus on working at the top of my license. Taking their ability to provide these services will disrupt workflow and distribute the workload more toward pharmacists, which could grater contribute to the burnout many of us suffer from.

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 HB2553.

Sincerely,

Cody Porter

Cody Porter, PharmD

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:02:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable **Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary**

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.

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

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 HB2553.

Lara Gomez, PharmD

Registered Pharmacist in Hawaii

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:10:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Taira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- To the Honorable **Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary**
- Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare providers and strongly embedded as a trusted resource in many remote communities, particularly across neighbor islands. Additionally, pharmacists often have established patient relationships and work extended hours.
- In 2020, the CDC reported, "Declines in routine pediatric vaccine ordering might indicate that US children and their communities face increased risks for outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases"
- During the 2018-2019 flu season, nearly a third of adult flu vaccinations were given in pharmacies.
The DOH has ceased to offer flu vaccines to department schools for school-aged children.
- The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act established by the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic increased access to care by allowing both pharmacists and certified pharmacy technicians to vaccinate down to the age of three.
- Please support this bill.
-
- Thank you,
- Deborah Taira

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE on Judiciary

Hearing on Thursday, April 4th at 10:00 am

Testimony for HB2553 HD2, SD1

To the honorable Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 HD2, SD1 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 at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, 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. The reemergence of vaccine preventable diseases such as measles and mumps reminds us that infectious diseases are a shared public health problem. 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 that we are adequately trained to provide.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, it would put the most vulnerable segments of our population at risk. Our keiki and kūpuna will lose critical access to potentially life saving immunizations.

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

Warmest Regards,

Chad Kawakami Pharm.D., BCPS

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:59:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing on Wednesday, April 4th 2024 10:00PM

Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee, 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 at Times Supermarket, I was actively involved in the vaccination effort during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was part of the mobile clinic team that helped provide vaccinations to people at schools, workplaces, care homes, nursing homes, community pod sites and even visited homes for patients who were bed-ridden or otherwise unable to leave their homes to get vaccinated. The PREP Act enabled pharmacists like myself to vaccinate persons between the ages of three and seventeen, making it easier for parents to get their children vaccinated in a time when doctor's offices have become overwhelmed with patients and the increasing difficulty with getting a doctor's appointment in a timely manner. I have vaccinated children in the pharmacy, at school, and their homes, which were environments that were more comfortable than a doctor's office. Healthcare providers also depend on us for these services, allowing for more time to be allocated for the patients' other healthcare needs. If the provisions of the PREP Act were to go away, patients will lose the convenience and flexibility that pharmacists can provide for their children's vaccinations.

I 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 HB2553.

Thank you,

David Cao

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing on Wednesday, April 4th 2024 10:00PM
Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to continue 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 the Clinical Service Manager at Pharmacare Hawaii, in charge of our vaccination clinics, I feel this bill, which allows pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to continue to administer vaccinations, is critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees can competently provide the vaccination 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 professionals to contribute to population health initiatives versus eliminating them. The public, myself included, finds it very convenient to be able to make vaccination appointments with their neighborhood pharmacy, where a pharmacist, pharmacy technician and/or pharmacy intern currently administers the vaccines.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer by having decreased access to important vaccinations which are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

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 HB2553.

Sincerely,

 Joy Matsuyama

Joy Matsuyama, PharmD, BCPS

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:33:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which extends the PREP Act which is set to expire at the end of 2024.

I would like to request that the bill be amended to allow pharmacists to order and administer vaccines for patients 3 years of age and older rather than just 3 to 17 years of age.

Sincerely,

Kerri Okamura, R.Ph.

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing on Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:00 AM

Testimony in Support for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing this letter to express my support for HB2553, which aims to adopt the provisions of the PREP Act to empower pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to administer routinely recommended vaccinations to individuals aged 3 and older. I would like to request that the bill be amended to allow pharmacists to order and administer vaccines for patients 3 years of age and older.

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians play a pivotal role in healthcare, and their contribution to public health has been evident, especially during the recent COVID19 pandemic when they administered the COVID19 vaccine to nearly a third of all adults receiving the vaccine. The convenience and extended hours offered by pharmacies make them a valuable resource for vaccination services. Additionally, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are trusted healthcare professionals with established relationships with their patients, ensuring a level of comfort and familiarity that is essential in healthcare practices.

The adoption of the PREP Act provisions allowing pharmacists to administer vaccinations to individuals aged 3 and above, as well as expanding the role of trained and Nationally Certified Pharmacy Technicians, is a logical and necessary step. In Hawaii, our community has relied on pharmacies, especially during the past three years of the pandemic, to provide essential vaccination services without the need for a prescription. With the discontinuation of flu vaccinations for school-aged children at their schools, community pharmacies are uniquely positioned to fill this void and ensure that every child receives the necessary vaccinations.

Allowing pharmacists to order and administer vaccines to individuals aged 3 and older will not only sustain access but also optimize the healthcare community's potential to keep our community healthy. This is particularly crucial in areas where there are shortages of healthcare providers or where access to medical services is limited.

I urge you to consider the importance of HB2553 and its potential positive impact on public health in Hawaii. By supporting this bill, we can enhance the reach of vaccination services and contribute to the overall well-being of our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue and for allowing me to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Dayna Wong-Otis, PharmD, CDCES

HB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:41:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support passage of HB2553 HD2 SD1. Mahalo