

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHARMACISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is currently a
2 statewide physician shortage. According to the federal Health
3 Resources and Services Administration, each county in the State
4 contains a region that is a medically underserved area, as
5 defined by the Public Health Service Act of 1944, P.L. 78-410.

6 The legislature further finds that pharmacists can help
7 bridge the gaps created by the physician shortage. A
8 pharmacist's skill set includes educating patients on how and
9 when to check blood sugar, ways to avoid and manage
10 hypoglycemia, how to take their medications correctly to avoid
11 adverse effects, and various medication utilization techniques.
12 Additionally, patients are three times more likely to stay out
13 of the hospital when pharmacists provide clinical services after
14 a hospital discharge.

15 However, the legislature also finds it prudent to conduct
16 an assessment of the social and financial impacts of mandating



1 health insurance reimbursement requirements for certain
2 pharmacists.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
4 auditor to conduct a social and financial assessment of proposed
5 reimbursement coverage for care provided by participating
6 registered pharmacists practicing within the scope of their
7 license.

8 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding the requirement of a
9 referral by concurrent resolution pursuant to section 23-51,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the auditor shall assess, in accordance
11 with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the
12 social and financial effects of mandating health insurance
13 coverage for care provided by a participating registered
14 pharmacist practicing within the scope of the pharmacist's
15 license for purposes of health maintenance or treatment to the
16 extent that the policy provides benefits for identical services
17 rendered by another health care provider, as provided in S.B.
18 No. 693, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 (2023).

19 (b) The auditor shall submit a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2025.

3 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
4 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
6 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
7 C.D. 1, and this Act will cause the state general fund
8 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by
9 \$ or per cent. This current declaration
10 takes into account general fund appropriations authorized for
11 fiscal year 2023-2024 in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1,
12 and this Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
13 expenditure ceiling are that:

- 14 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
15 serve the public interest; and
- 16 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
17 addressed by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
21 conduct the impact study required by section 2 of this Act.

1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the auditor for
2 the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2899

Report Title:

Auditor; Impact Study; Insurance Coverage; Pharmacists;
Reimbursement; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the auditor to conduct an assessment on the social and financial impacts of mandating health insurance coverage for care provided by a participating registered pharmacist practicing within the scope of the pharmacist's license. Requires a report to the legislature before the 2025 regular session. Declares that the general fund expenditure is exceeded. Makes an appropriation.

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