



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

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

HB 72 HD2 – RELATING TO PHARMACY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board will meet on February 27, 2025 and take a position on this measure. For now, the Board offers the following comments.

The purpose of this bill beginning on 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 is supportive of the intent to provide regulation of pharmacy technicians. The Board recently formed a permitted interaction group to look at best practices for regulating pharmacy technicians. 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 SLH 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 20, 2025

TO: Representative Kyle Yamashita
Chair, Committee on Finance

Representative Jenna Takenouchi
Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **H.B. 72, H.D.2 - Relating to Pharmacy**
Hearing Date: Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 308

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



February 20, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB72, HD2: RELATING TO PHARMACY

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a rural healthcare provider, access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services is our mission at Moloka'i Drugs. On behalf of our employees and patients, I am testifying in favor of HB72, HD2, which will create necessary regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state.

At Moloka'i Drugs, our pharmacy technicians are essential in workflow management – from data entry, to managing inventory, to contacting on-island and off-island doctors, to product dispensing, to giving the prescription to the verifying pharmacist, to delivering the patient's drug at the point-of-sale cash register.

Hawai'i is the only state in the United States without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians. Beyond enhancing our Moloka'i patients' safety, this measure 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. As of today, our pharmacy technicians administer over 50 percent of our immunizations, including COVID, flu, pneumonia, RSV and shingles.

Without regulation, Hawai'i risks falling behind in providing the best possible care to our communities, especially rural communities like Moloka'i with very limited medical resources. With only one airline—which was shut down for six days in January 2025—and no ferry, our sick and/or elderly residents have even more challenges traveling off-island for medical procedures and services.

HB72, HD2, comes at a reasonable price tag, and even small pharmacies such as Moloka'i Drugs are willing to pay for these regulations. On behalf of our 7,000 full-time residents, we ask that you support HB72, HD2, and help Hawai'i become the 50th state of fifty to finally align our pharmacy technicians with national standards. Our Moloka'i-based pharmacy technicians live full-time on our island and know our people. They work hand-in-hand with our licensed pharmacists. Our pharmacy technicians are essential healthcare employees and they help keep Moloka'i healthy and thriving. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kimberly Mikami Svetin

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

Date: February 19, 2025

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Hrg: Friday February 21, 2025 at 2:00 pm via Videoconference Conference Room 308

Aloha House Committee on Finance,

As a licensed Hawai'i pharmacist, retired Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy faculty and member of the East Hawai'i community, I am writing in **strong support of HB72 HD2**, 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; 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** aligns with national pharmacy technician regulation standards to strengthen pharmacy practice in Hawai'i.

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

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

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

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

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

As a pharmacy technician practicing in Hawai'i, I strongly support HB72, which aims to establish much-needed regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. Hawai'i is currently the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians. This lack of oversight poses risks to patient safety and limits our profession's ability to adapt to evolving healthcare needs. Regulation is critical to ensuring that pharmacy technicians meet consistent standards, enabling us to perform our duties with the highest level of competency and accountability.

I currently provide services at KTA Pharmacy as a CPhT on Hawaii Island. Duties include prescription data entry, fill, final sale, vaccinations, and more. Pharmacy technicians across the country are able to become nationally certified and provide additional services.

HB72 is not only a necessary step toward improving patient safety, but it also lays the foundation for pharmacy technicians like myself to expand the services we provide in Hawai'i. As our role grows nationally to include responsibilities such as administering immunizations and performing medication management tasks, regulation will ensure that Hawai'i is positioned to follow suit. The modest cost of this initiative is a small investment that will have a significant impact on the safety, efficiency, and quality of care I can provide in our communities.

By creating a data repository, this bill will also provide a vital resource for communicating practice and regulatory changes across the workforce, ensuring alignment with both state and federal requirements.

I urge the Committee to support HB72 to bring Hawai'i in line with national standards and to ensure a stronger future for pharmacy technicians and pharmacy practice in Hawai'i



Christina Method Reuelman, CPhT

KTA Pharmacy & The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:15:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of HB72 HD2. Mahalo



50 EAST PUAINAKO STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720

PHONE: 808-959-4575

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
House Committee on Health
Thursday, February 19, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,,

My name is Megan Arbles Pharm D., Director of Pharmacy for an independent pharmacy on the Big Island and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. HB72, A Bill to Mandate Pharmacy Technician Registration within the DCCA.

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 following tasks that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy including processing prescriptions, managing inventory, preparing medications assisting with insurance claims, and providing essential support to pharmacists in ensuring patient safety. By handling these key responsibilities pharmacy technicians help streamline operations, allowing pharmacists to focus on clinical services such as medication counseling, immunizations, and chronic disease management.

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. Establishing regulations for pharmacy technicians through HB72 will ensure proper training, standardization, and accountability ultimately improving patient care and pharmacy efficiency in Hawai'i. 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,

Megan Arbles, Pharm D.
Director of Pharmacy Operations, KTA Pharmacy
50 E. Puainako St Hilo, HI 96720

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

As a registered pharmacist practicing in Hawai'i, I strongly support HB72, which seeks to establish crucial regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. In my practice, pharmacy technicians are essential in performing tasks that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy but not a pharmacist's duty. Such jobs as preparing refills, documentation in the computer, labeling products, answering telephones, interfacing with customers are very important in the outpatient setting. In my previous position as a hospital pharmacy Director, pharmacy technicians filled automated dispensing machines and emergency/code carts with medications on the nursing floors and operating rooms as well as compounded oral and intravenous solutions including chemotherapy for cancer patients. Handling of hazardous substances and making sure solutions are free of contamination are important tasks pharmacy technicians are trained for and perform daily. As an employer of pharmacy technicians I would feel more confident in my hires knowing they were regulated by the state.

Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians, leaving a significant gap in oversight that can impact patient safety. Pharmacy technicians play an essential role in supporting pharmacists and ensuring the safe preparation and delivery of medications and devices, 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 assisting with clinical data gathering related to medication management. Without HB72, Hawai'i's pharmacy technicians cannot readily adapt to these changes and risk 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 Hawaii

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 following tasks that are critical to the workflow of the pharmacy. Pharmacy technicians play a vital role in ensuring efficient and safe pharmacy operations by assisting with prescription processing, medication preparation, inventory management, patient assistance, insurance coordination, and regulatory compliance. Their contributions allow pharmacists to focus on clinical care, improving patient outcomes. However, the lack of standardized regulations poses risks to patient safety and pharmacy efficiency.

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.

Mahalo,

Teva Kealoha Meyer, PharmD

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:10:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Pharmacy technicians should be registered and pharmacists-in-charge should be required to report violations conducted by registered pharmacy technicians.

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:38:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LILY VAN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 21, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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.

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.

Thank you,

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

Testimony for HB72: A bill to mandate pharmacy technician registration within the DCCA
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

As a pharmacy technician practicing in Hawai'i, I strongly support HB72, which aims to establish much-needed regulations for pharmacy technicians in our state. Hawai'i is currently the only state in the nation without an active, managed list of practicing pharmacy technicians. This lack of oversight poses risks to patient safety and limits our profession's ability to adapt to evolving healthcare needs. Regulation is critical to ensuring that pharmacy technicians meet consistent standards, enabling us to perform our duties with the highest level of competency and accountability.

I currently provide services at [workplace], including [XXX]. Pharmacy technicians across the country can become nationally certified and provide additional services, such as [XXX].

HB72 is not only a necessary step toward improving patient safety, but it also lays the foundation for pharmacy technicians like myself to expand the services we provide in Hawai'i. As our role grows nationally to include responsibilities such as administering immunizations and performing medication management tasks, regulation will ensure that Hawai'i is positioned to follow suit. The modest cost of this initiative is a small investment that will have a significant impact on the safety, efficiency, and quality of care I can provide in our communities.

By creating a data repository, this bill will also provide a vital resource for communicating practice and regulatory changes across the workforce, ensuring alignment with both state and federal requirements.

I urge the Committee to support HB72 to bring Hawai'i in line with national standards and to ensure a stronger future for pharmacy technicians and pharmacy practice in Hawai'i.

[SIGNOFF],

[Your Name] [Your Credentials]

[Your Pharmacy Affiliation]

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:16:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Zilonis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Beverly Zilonis CPhT-Adv and I fully support HB 72 HD2. I have been a pharmacy technician with an advanced pharmacy technician certification since 2006. I started my career in the Bay area of Northern California and moved to Hawaii in 2011. In the state of California, pharmacy technicians are required to either go to school or take the national exam (PTCB) to get licensed in that state including doing a background check that includes fingerprinting. I have had the privilege of working in a pharmacy technician registered state and a non-pharmacy technician registered State and have seen very clear differences. For almost 14 years I worked for Walgreens. I started working for them in California and transferred to their new branch on the Big Island of Hawaii. After I transferred, my experience as a senior technician for them changed drastically. I was tasked with training the technician staff for the store. Unfortunately, there is no requirement for pharmacy technicians in the State of Hawaii. My new technicians had no pharmacy background and no prior knowledge of pharmaceuticals. Training in a retail setting is already difficult and demanding due to hours and workload, but it was overwhelming to train someone that I not only had to teach how to do this job, I had to teach them what a pharmacy technician is supposed to know and the sense of responsibility that you should have towards patient safety. Many technicians unfortunately here didn't understand the lack of job opportunities and the professional recognition from fellow staff. Currently, as Prescription Specialist at Hawaii Island Community Health Center the same principles still apply. Most people in the public do not realize how much the pharmacy technicians contribute to patient safety and pharmacy compliance. Pharmacists are there to double check us and ensure patient safety, but pharmacy technicians are the first line. Pharmacy technicians need to have the tools to make the best judgment when they are taking in prescriptions. Pharmacists have a heavy workload. Some pharmacies are just one pharmacist on duty and that pharmacist needs to be able to count on their technicians. In addition to this legislature HB 72 there is another piece of legislation being proposed, SB 324 which mandates reimbursement for services provided by participating registered pharmacists practicing within their scope of practice by private and public health plans. Having a registry for pharmacy technicians will help ensure not only patient safety but that the pharmacists feel supported in knowing they have knowledgeable staff.

Best Regards,

Beverly Zilonis CPhT-Adv

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:37:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB72

To the Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

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 without putting patients at risk. 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