



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**  
**HB 2464, HD1, RELATING TO PRACTICE OF PHARMACY**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.**  
**Director of Health**

**February 17, 2010, 2:00 p.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure seeks to amend the definition of "practice of pharmacy" by
- 4 changing the age of persons to whom immunizations are administered from ages 18 years or older to
- 5 ages 9 years or older with parental consent. While the Department believes that immunization is the
- 6 best method of disease prevention, enacting a measure to allow delivery of this critical public health
- 7 intervention by nontraditional healthcare professionals outside of the medical home without ensuring
- 8 appropriate safeguards or measures for appropriate and timely vaccinations, including a method to
- 9 record and verify vaccinations, could create more public health challenges than the intended benefits.
- 10 During a public health emergency such as an influenza pandemic, increasing capacity to deliver a
- 11 specific life-saving vaccination to our children is certainly desirable. However, children are a special
- 12 population, and vaccine administration for them requires specific training and techniques as well as
- 13 resources, not only for administering the vaccine, but also for managing a potential adverse event. Also,
- 14 unlike adults, children require a specific and complicated schedule of routine vaccinations that may be
- 15 modified at least yearly according to the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

1    Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Not uncommonly, the ACIP has  
2    issued temporary modifications in response to vaccine shortages. The proposed blanket measure falls  
3    short of addressing the multiple issues involved in childhood vaccinations. Rather than pursuing  
4    legislative action at this time, the Department recommends that a more appropriate course would be to  
5    engage immunization partners, specifically those experts in pediatrics as well as vaccine administration,  
6    to evaluate the pros and cons and further discuss the issue, develop consensus, then establish an  
7    appropriate plan to ensure the health and welfare of our children.

8            Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2010**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
2:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2464, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PRACTICE  
OF PHARMACY.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Dr. Elwin Goo, Chair of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on this bill that would allow a Hawaii licensed pharmacist to administer immunizations to persons nine years of age and older with parental consent.

I would like to preface my comments by informing the Committee that the Board has not yet reviewed this bill, which is scheduled for discussion at the Board's next meeting on February 18, 2010. It is at this meeting that all proposed legislation regarding amendments to Chapter 461, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are slated to be addressed in a public forum to which all interested parties have been invited.

The Board, when it meets, will need to consider if parental consent is sufficient or if a pharmacist should also require a valid prescription from a licensed physician in order to administer immunizations to a child nine years of

age or older as this will signify that the child had been examined by that licensed physician.

In addition, based on testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Health when they heard Senate Bill No. 2492, the companion to House Bill No. 2464, the Board will also be considering the additional workload involved in providing immunizations such as methods to record and verify vaccines and specific training for the administration of vaccines to children. The Senate Committee on Health deferred Senate Bill No. 2492 indefinitely but is recommending that a task force be established to evaluate and further discuss this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2464, H.D. 1.