THE SENATE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024 STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2899

JAN 1 9 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHARMACISTS.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is currently a
 statewide physician shortage. According to the federal Health
 Resources and Services Administration, each county in the State
 contains a region that is a medically underserved area, as
 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. Α 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



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health insurance reimbursement requirements for certain
 pharmacists.

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

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

19 (b) The auditor shall submit a report of its findings and20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



2

Page 3

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

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

14 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to15 serve the public interest; and

16 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs17 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.

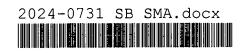


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A.

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:



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.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

