

Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H. B. 2113, H.D.1, RELATING TO PHARMACY**

Chair Nakashima 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 the intent of this bill and offers comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts; (2) establish the pharmacist workforce assessment fee; and (3) appropriate funds.

The Board requests clarification on oversight of such a fund. Without assurances related to oversight, it is unclear who this special fund will benefit.

The Board requests additional information related to the benefit of such a fee to licensees. License fees are provided in proportion to the cost of managing and administering the Board and the Board's related licenses. To increase fees on all licensees under the Board of Pharmacy without a clear benefit to be gained by licensees is of concern.

Lastly, the amount which will be added to initial licensure and renewal fees is unclear. The Board requests clarity on the amount of funding that is being requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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 Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 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 2113 HD1 – RELATING TO PHARMACY

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2113 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2113 HD1, which establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to create a Hawai'i Center for Pharmacy which will support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts. The Center will be established through a pharmacist workforce assessment fee, and appropriate funds to advance the profession of pharmacy, as part of an intentional effort to help improve access to quality health care for the people of Hawai'i.

Pharmacists are among the most accessible health care providers, with a doctoral level of expertise and clinical training, and are currently underutilized in Hawai'i. HB 2113 HD1 is modeled after the Hawai'i Center for Medicine and Hawai'i Center for Nursing, which have been instrumental in facilitating the ability of these professions to be proactive and strategic in formulating data-informed solutions for existing and emerging health care challenges in Hawai'i. HB 2113 HD1 will allow pharmacists, who are essential members of current health care teams, to also align with and contribute to this collective effort.

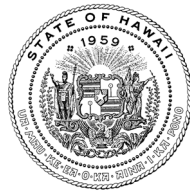
Passage of HB 2113 HD1 represents a profession-driven solution that will allow pharmacy to match the standard already granted to other health care professions (medicine, nursing) in Hawai'i. It will allow for a workforce assessment fee as part of licensing requirements that would create a foundational base and sustainable mechanism for supporting the activities of a Hawai'i Center for Pharmacy.

The Hawai'i Center for Pharmacy will be housed in the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, which similar to the existing centers for medicine and nursing, will allow the profession to leverage the academic expertise and unique training and professional networks that are necessary for implementing data-driven approaches and innovative

solutions to improve access to quality health care. In addition, the role of the college in training future pharmacists offers natural synergies for supporting the disbursement of scholarships and loan repayment initiatives to attract to Hawai'i and retain needed talent for service in medically-underserved areas of the state.

In summary, passage of HB 2113 HD1 will support a data-informed, coordinated and intentional effort to position the profession of pharmacy to help fill existing health care gaps in Hawai'i. The college is uniquely suited for housing the proposed Center which will proactively assess, train, and leverage pharmacists, working with pharmacy stakeholders across the state and country, to fill gaps in care related to medication management and safety. Pharmacists are embedded as trusted health care professionals in many remote communities, and many published studies have documented their positive impact on patient outcomes as the health care landscape has shifted to value- and team-based care models. The proposed Center would be instrumental in adapting effective approaches for the unique needs of Hawai'i and creating innovative solutions working in alignment with other stakeholders in today's rapidly evolving health care landscape. The people of Hawai'i deserve access to quality health care and we respectfully ask your support in allowing the profession of pharmacy to be part of the solution through this Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2113 HD1.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2113, H.D. 1

February 14, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO PHARMACY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2113, H.D. 1: 1) establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund (COPSF) to be administered by the University of Hawai'i and expended on activities related to pharmacist workforce development and planning within the State; 2) establishes pharmacist workforce assessment fees of undetermined amounts for renewed pharmacist licenses, new or renewed wholesale prescription drug distributor licenses, new or renewed pharmacy permits, and new or renewed permits; 3) appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds for FY 25 from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Compliance Resolution Fund to be deposited into the COPSF; and 4) appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the COPSF for FY 25 for the purpose of pharmacist workforce development. Revenues for the COPSF include appropriations by the Legislature, pharmacist workforce assessment fees, interest, and grants, gifts and other income.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should:

- 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;
- 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue;
- 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and
- 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 2113, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed COPSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Pharmacist Workforce Assessment Fees

BILL NUMBER: HB 2113 HD1

INTRODUCED BY: SAYAMA, BELATTI, HOLT, KILA, KOBAYASHI, LA CHICA, MARTEN, MIYAKE, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, TAKENOUCI, TAM, TARNAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts. Establishes the pharmacist workforce assessment fee.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 304A, HRS, that establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund. The fund shall be used to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts, including the recruitment and retention of pharmacists, for rural and medically underserved areas of the State, including: (1) Maintaining accurate pharmacist workforce assessment information and providing or updating personal and professional information, that shall be maintained in a secure database; (2) Providing loan repayment to pharmacists who commit to working in medically underserved areas of the State as part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program administered by the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy; and (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying pharmacy students to be determined by the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy.

Adds a new section to chapter 461, HRS, that imposes the Workforce Assessment Fee. The fee imposed is: (1) \$ _____, for each renewed license as a pharmacist; (2) \$ _____, for each new or renewed wholesale prescription drug distributor license; (3) \$ _____, for each new or renewed pharmacy permit under section 461-14; and (4) \$ _____, for each new or renewed permit under section 461-15. The fee is to be deposited into the special fund.

Makes technical and conforming amendments to sections 461-8 and 461-16, HRS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 3000.

STAFF COMMENTS: The 1989 Tax Review Commission noted that use of special fund financing is a “departure from Hawaii’s sound fiscal policies and should be avoided.” It also noted that special funds are appropriate where the revenues to the funds maintain some direct connection between a public service and the beneficiary of that service. The Commission found that special funds which merely set aside general funds cannot be justified as such actions restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability. It recommended that such programs can be given priority under the normal budget process without having to resort to this type of financing.

We question why this new “fee” – actually a tax – is needed. The Legislature should be exercising its constitutional responsibilities and determine which of the State’s priorities are worthy of funding. If scholarships and loan repayment for new pharmacists and pharmacists-in-training is as important as its proponents suggest, then the legislature could just give a few more dollars to the University of Hawaii to administer such programs. The bill proposes, in essence, partial abdication of that responsibility to the University of Hawaii.

Digested: 2/12/2024



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 2:00P.M.
Conference Room 329 and via Videoconference**

**By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on H.B. 2113, H.D. 1

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing this measure which aims to establish the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts as well as establishes the pharmacist workforce assessment fee and appropriates funds.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HCSN) was established by a similar manner as proposed in H.B. 2113. Established by the Legislature in 2003 by Act 198 with staffing starting in 2005, the Center was founded "to address nursing workforce issues." The Center is located at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) and reports to its Dean, in addition to being guided by the Advisory Board. The Center is supported by the nurses of Hawai'i through the Center for Nursing Fee. These funds are deposited into a "special fund" account for Center use. In addition, the Center receives support for programs from our in-state schools of nursing, health care facilities across the state, and through grants and funding opportunities from state and national partners.

Over the 19 years that our Center has been in service to the state, we have consistently supported the state in its pursuit to ensure there are adequate number of nurses. In times like the present, where the inevitable retirements of our baby boomer population of nurses was compounded with the instability in the workforce due to COVID, the workforce data we produce, as well as the strategies, programs, and outcomes we deliver have increased value. Our work has facilitated both an increase in educational capacity across schools of nursing in Hawai'i, as well as increase in hiring of new graduate nurses, and far better retention rates for these nurses than for new graduates, nationally.

Workforce centers are valuable assets nationally and locally. HSCN has been in close conversations with the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy and commends their efforts to support their professional workforce through workforce assessment and planning efforts.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection
February 8, 2024

Corrie L. Sanders on behalf of
The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association (HPhA)

To the honorable Chair Sayama and members of the Consumer Protection 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.

Additional points for consideration specifically surrounding documentation and consumer protection:

- All vaccinations administered in a community pharmacy must be reported to the Hawaii State Immunization Registry (HIR) within 5 business days. All providers can gain access to HIR to prevent gaps in communication and vaccination duplication.
- 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. This is similar to medical assistants, also not regulated by the DCCA, that are vaccinating in other settings underneath the direct supervision of a licensed healthcare provider.
- 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

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/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AdultVaccination_F_web.pdf

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.**

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrie L. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.
EST. 1935

February 13, 2024

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113 – Establishment of a Center for Pharmacy

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce 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 HB2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy" in Hawai'i.

For the past 15+ years, we have supported the Daniel K. Inouye UH College of Pharmacy (DKICOP) by being a preceptor site for year one to year four interns working at Moloka'i Drugs with our pharmacist-in-charge. Unfortunately, not one DKICOP intern we have hosted was raised on Moloka'i. One of the biggest reasons we have had a difficult time "growing our own" on Moloka'i is the pure expense of four years of off-island pharmacy school tuition, room and board, books, fees and travel. One of the proposed roles of the new center will include coordinating pharmacy student loan payment. By having a center helping with pharmacy school student loan payment, we will find more of our Moloka'i students going into the pharmacy profession.

Currently, Moloka'i Drugs is a training worksite for national certified pharmacy technician (CPhT) training for Good Jobs Hawai'i, a partnership among the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, employers and organizations that "want to help people in Hawai'i attain a good quality job for generations to come." Moloka'i Drugs is also partnering with DKICOP, the University of Hawai'i – Hilo and the University of Hawai'i – Maui College with expanded CPhT development, which will include immunization training for CPhTs. This new center will also help implement retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, which has always been a concern of rural healthcare facilities, including Molokai Drugs, on the island of Moloka'i with a population of 7,000 residents.

Thank you for your consideration and vote for HB2113. We at Moloka'i Drugs, Inc. look forward to being the first company signed with the Center for Pharmacy, which will help us make more of an impact in access to quality healthcare services for our patients.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mikami Svetin /s/

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

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:29:26 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the passage of HB2113 HD1 as written. Mahalo nui loa

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:52:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to improving patient care. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes and the overall health and well being of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Lara Gomez, PharmD

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to pharmacist advocacy, rural behavioral health improvements, and a dedicated resource for pharmacy professionals. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could continue to promote our accessibility and provide retention incentives to reduce turnover. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Kerr, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 2:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at KTA Super Stores on the Big Island, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to innovative patient care models and advanced pharmacy services. I believe our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could integrate comprehensive medication management or expand collaborative practice agreements. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer. This strategic approach would enhance patient care, foster professional growth, and contribute significantly to the overall healthcare landscape in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Arbles", written in a cursive style.

Megan Arbles, Pharm D.
Director of Pharmacy Operations
KTA Super Stores

You're Someone Special Every Day at KTA!

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:33:33 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2113 HD1

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:49:02 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wesley Sumida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113 HD1

To the honorable Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my individual **support** for House Bill 2113 HD1, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at the Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Wes Sumida, Pharm.D., BCPS

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

Hearing on Wednesday, February 14 th at 2:00PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist who owns my own medical practice, The Keto Prescription Clinic, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession. We have not represented or protected ourselves well and as a result, an MD stole \$80,000 in insurance reimbursements from me in 2019-2020.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to supporting patient care on a higher level. We are the medication experts and can greatly assist in an environment where patients are over-medicated and under-educated. I know for a fact that our profession can drastically impact care outcomes based on the results in my clinical practice. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincere Regards,

Dr. Jodi Nishida, PharmD, MHP

The Keto Prescription Clinic

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:29:35 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing on Wednesday, February 14 th at 2:00PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, practicing in the intensive care unit at the Queen's Medical Center, I believe that the creation of such a center is essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession. The proposed roles of the center, including supporting the pharmacy profession, coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country. Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to advocating and creating action plans for improved healthcare quality, access to care, and cost-effective care in Hawaii. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy will lead these initiatives alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing. In the current state, this is not feasible, as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are on a volunteer basis. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Nicole Young, PharmD

Associate Professor

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:32:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Reuelman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this crucial bill to help the future of the pharmacy profession and healthcare services in Hawaii, especially in rural areas.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist working collaboratively at the Hawai'i Pacific Health University Family Medicine clinic as part of a collaboration with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to increasing access to pharmacists in doctor's office. Working in a doctor's office, I collaborate with the physicians to ensure the most effective and safe medications are recommended. I also help to solve problems preventing people from getting their medications from the pharmacy and find lower priced medications for patients. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could have the center help promote the role of the pharmacist in the physician's offices to improve the health of the people of the Hawai'i especially since there is a significant shortage of physicians in our islands. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve. This testimony represent my individual views and I am not representing the University of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Camlyn Masuda, PharmD, CDCES, BCACP
Associate Specialist, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Assistant Clinical Specialist, Dept. of Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa-John A. Burns School of Medicine
Clinical Scholars Alumni
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste 1025A
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: camlynm@hawaii.edu

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Glick, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at Lihue Pharmacy Group, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to Clinical Patient Care and Direct patient Care. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could provide care commensurate with our training and be paid for the same services rendered by other similar professions at an equitable rate. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Glick, Pharm.D.

Lihue Pharmacy Group

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to pharmacist led rural behavioral health innovation in Hawaii. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we could expand collaborative practices and bill for services. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Mahalo,

Lehua Kay, PharmD, BCPP

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
Hearing on Wednesday February 14th, 2024 2:00PM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to advancing pharmacist patient care services. I know our profession can drastically impact care outcomes if we have one voice coordinating all aspects of pharmacy in the state of Hawai'i. My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Mark Mierzwa, PharmD, BCPP

Pharmacy Director

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 2:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the Honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Envisioning the potential of the Center for Pharmacy, I see the creation of opportunities related to improving health equity for vulnerable populations and ensuring timely access to care. Our communities have the most to gain from this initiative. Pharmacists can drastically impact care outcomes if we could develop a means of consolidating and focusing our endeavors into one central entity. My vision is that a Center for Pharmacy will advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing, as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession, patients, and communities we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Chad Kawakami Pharm.D., BCPS

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00PM
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2113

To the honorable Chair Nakashima and members of the Consumer Protection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2113, which proposes the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy in Hawai'i. As a pharmacist at working in an ambulatory care center at one of our largest health care institutions, I believe that the creation of such a center is not only timely, but essential in addressing critical issues facing our healthcare system and the pharmacy profession.

The proposed roles of the center, including coordinating pharmacy student loan repayment, collecting workforce assessment data, implementing retention initiatives for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, mitigating drug shortages pricing solutions, as well as serving as an independent entity to coordinate progressive pharmacy practice initiatives, demonstrates a proactive and strategic approach to leveraging a profession that is underutilized in comparison to states across the country.

Having been an active and licensed pharmacist in the states of Mississippi and Washington before returning home to Hawaii, I realize how far behind we are as a profession here. I attribute much of that to the lack of infrastructure that we have created for ourselves here. Creating this Center of Pharmacy not only lays the foundation for a thriving and active landscape for future pharmacy professionals to stay in Hawaii to work, but it allows us to finally be on similar playing fields as our counterparts on the mainland.

As a current board member of the Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA), I understand that much work that goes into progressing our profession and advocating for our membership requires much time and commitment. Currently, the pharmacists in our state do not have a true consistent and collective voice. HPhA operates on a 100% volunteer basis, and continuing to advance our profession based on kind-hearted volunteerism is not sustainable. This initiative truly is proposed by members of the profession, funded through members of the profession, and FOR members of the profession.

My hope is that a Center for Pharmacy can advocate for these initiatives during working hours alongside the equivalents of medicine and nursing as all Hawai'i pharmacy advocacy groups and boards are volunteer. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the establishment of a Center for Pharmacy will have for our profession and the patients we serve.

Thank you,

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

LATE

HB-2113-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:55:44 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Aimee Malia Grace, MD, MPH, FAAP, and I am a pediatrician and a public health/health policy professional. I am writing in my individual capacity.

I strongly believe in the role of pharmacists to augment and extend the primary care team. We need more information about their workforce needs and how to approach this part of the health care workforce with evidence.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.