

**Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
10:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

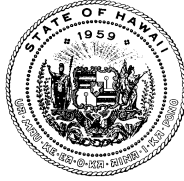
**On the following measure:  
H. B. 2553, RELATING TO PHARMACISTS**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Skizewski, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board will review and take an official position on H.B. 2553, Relating to Pharmacists, at its next meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024 and will provide the Committee with its position following the meeting.

The purposes of this bill are to (1) authorize licensed pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines to persons between the age of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met; and (2) authorize licensed pharmacists to order the administration of vaccines for persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2553  
RELATING TO PHARMACISTS**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

1 Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 10:15 am, Via Videoconference and Conference Room 329

2 **Fiscal Implications:** No fiscal implications determined for the Department of Health.

3 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) provides the following  
5 testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vaccination coverage  
7 among Hawaii Kindergarteners for routinely recommended childhood vaccines (e.g., measles,  
8 mumps, and rubella; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; polio; etc.) has declined by nearly ten  
9 percentage points between the period of 2017 – 2022 and remains below the U.S. national  
10 average. In the effort to ensure continued expanded access to immunizations in settings such  
11 as pharmacies, HDOH/DOCD supports incorporation of federal PREP Act authorizations in  
12 Hawaii statute. As demonstrated during the COVID-19 public health emergency, pharmacies'  
13 ability to conduct mobile/off-site vaccination clinics for seasonal vaccines such as influenza and  
14 COVID-19 also ensure continued options for school-located vaccination clinics. Note,  
15 HDOH/DOCD is concerned that this measure does not address other instances in HRS§461 that  
16 pertain to pharmacist's ability to order and administer vaccinations to minors (HRS§461-1 and  
17 HRS§461-8) which may result in conflicting authorization language.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# 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 Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### HB 2553 – RELATING TO PHARMACISTS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2553. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2553, which authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons aged 3-17, when certain requirements are met. This bill will also allow pharmacists to order and administer any vaccination approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

HB 2553 essentially extends the vaccination services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024. Through the PREP Act, pharmacists across the nation have had the authority to administer all recommended vaccines to children ages 3-18, and have demonstrated their ability to do so.

Passage of HB 2553 will ensure that the vaccination services provided by pharmacists, along with pharmacy interns and technicians under their supervision, can continue in Hawai'i after the federal emergency authorization ends. It is important to note that even when working under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, the pharmacy interns and technicians have been and will continue to be required to have specialized training and a national certification to administer the vaccinations. Moreover, as different types of vaccines become available and recommended for use in children by the CDC ACIP, they will also be covered through this legislation.

The ability to leverage the accessible vaccination services of pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians for children is significant. It has been reported that more than 90% of Americans live within 2 miles of a community pharmacy, and annually, Americans visit their pharmacy 35 times, as compared to 4 visits to their primary care

provider. Since the pandemic, members of the public and other health care providers have come to depend on pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians to provide their vaccinations. This accessibility is important because childhood vaccination rates have been decreasing, eliciting public health concerns as children and communities have become more vulnerable to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

In summary, passage of HB 2553 will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to provide vaccination services for children, which families and communities across Hawai'i need and have come to expect. Please allow us to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people of Hawai'i by passing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2553.



January 30, 2024

[submitted electronically via: [capitol.hawaii.gov](https://capitol.hawaii.gov)]

The Honorable Della Au Belatti  
Chair, Committee on Health & Homelessness  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on [House Bill \(HB\) 2553](#) (Vice Chair Takenouchi). This bill will codify pharmacists' authority to administer and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines to patients aged three years or older. Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns currently have this authority in Hawai'i due to federal Declarations under the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. However, some of the federal authorities under the PREP Act expired on May 11, 2023, and other authorities will be expiring under the Eleventh Amendment in December 2024,<sup>1</sup> which will interrupt access for patients who have come to rely on pharmacy personnel to administer immunizations.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession, including 2,451 licensed pharmacists in Hawaii. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care, and enhance public health. APhA represents pharmacists, students, and pharmacy technicians who practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

Hawai'i pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist have been administering vaccines for the past several years after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a declaration under the federal PREP Act for medical countermeasures against

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Eleventh Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published March 12, 2023. Available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/12/2023-10216/eleventh-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for>

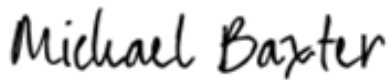
COVID-19<sup>2</sup> and then the Third,<sup>3</sup> Fourth,<sup>4</sup> Eighth,<sup>5</sup> and Tenth<sup>6</sup> Amendments. HHS' declarations and amendments authorized the following:

- Pharmacists (order and administer) and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist, to administer to persons ages three or older COVID-19 vaccinations and seasonal influenza vaccines that have been authorized or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Pharmacists (order and administer) and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist, to administer any vaccine that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule.

The federal authority under the PREP Act preempts state law and Hawai'ians have been receiving expanded access to vaccines provided by their local pharmacy personnel for nearly four years. While pharmacists (order and administer) and pharmacy technicians' and pharmacy interns' authority to administer to persons ages three or older COVID-19 vaccinations and seasonal influenza vaccines will continue until December 2024, pharmacy personnel's (interns' and technicians') authority to administer other ACIP-recommended vaccines to persons ages three through 18 ended on May 11, 2023. HB2553 makes this temporary federal authority permanent in Hawai'i under pharmacists', pharmacy interns', and pharmacy technicians' state scope of practice by maintaining access to vaccinations for patients aged three years or older. HB2553 is vital to minimize interruptions to patients' access to necessary vaccinations and ensure Hawai'i can meet its public health needs and save millions in preventable health care costs to Hawai'i.

For these reasons, APhA respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on HB2553. If you have any questions or require additional information or would like to meet with Hawai'i pharmacists, please don't hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at [mmurphy@aphanet.org](mailto:mmurphy@aphanet.org).

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter  
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs

cc: Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

---

<sup>2</sup> HHS. Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published March 17, 2020. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-03-17/pdf/2020-05484.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> HHS. Third Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published August 24, 2020. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-24/pdf/2020-18542.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> HHS. Fourth Amendment to the Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 and Republication of the Declaration. Published December 9, 2020. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-12-09/pdf/2020-26977.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> HHS. Eighth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published August 4, 2021. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-08-04/pdf/2021-16681.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> HHS. Tenth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Published January 7, 2022. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-01-07/pdf/2022-00151.pdf>.

Representative Terez Amato  
Representative Greggor Ilagan  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi  
Representative Lisa Marten  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto  
Representative Diamond Garcia



Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Health & Homelessness Committee

January 31, 2024; 10:15 a.m.  
Conference room 329

**RE: HB 2553 - Relating to Pharmacists – In Support, request amendments**

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

CVS Health is writing in support of HB 2553, which authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of the pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill is a positive step in providing increased and equitable access to vaccinations approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to pediatric patients. The increased access to vaccinations at pharmacies will support the patients of Hawaii by providing critical disease prevention.

As written, this bill is limited to pediatric vaccinations. We ask for your consideration in amending the bill to authorize pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to pediatric and adult patients, three years of age and older.

Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians have demonstrated their clinical ability to safely order and administer vaccinations during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. HB 2553 will codify this allowance in State law.

On behalf of CVS Health, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and ask for your favorable consideration in passing HB 2553 with amendments to enable pharmacy technicians to administer all vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist, while under the supervision of a pharmacist.

Respectfully,

Carla Saporta Cheng  
Senior Director of State Government Affairs  
CVS Health



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: January 31, 2024

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti  
Chair, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Tiffany Yajima / Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 2553 – Relating to Pharmacists**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.**

---

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates stores at more than 8,200 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens now has 19 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

Walgreens submits this testimony in **support** of H.B. 2553, which authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met, and authorizes licensed pharmacists to order and administer vaccines to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government issued the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) in 2020. Pursuant to the PREP Act, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns have been safely administering these vaccinations in the pharmacy setting. However, when the PREP Act expires at the end of 2024, this important health care service will no longer be available to persons ages three through ten. As a result, this limitation will have an impact on youth access to vaccinations, particularly in rural communities where pharmacies serve as crucial access points for health care.

Walgreens would note that there is a similar bill, H.B. 2147, Relating to Health, which codifies a portion of the PREP Act as it relates to pharmacist immunizations of minors ages three through ten. While that measure does not address pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns, Walgreens prefers the language in H.B. 2147 because these pharmacy personnel, while important, are not currently regulated in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
JANUARY 31, 2024**

**Re: HB 2536 RELATING TO RELATING TO PHARMACISTS.**

Good morning, Chair Belatti and members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii is in SUPPORT of HB 2553. This measure authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen if certain requirements are met; and authorizes licensed pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

Pharmacists are one of the most accessible healthcare providers and are a strongly trusted resource across our islands in many communities, especially those that are remote. This bill will extend the services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024.

The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees did provide the services described in this bill. It is our understanding that Pharmacy Interns do receive vaccination training and obtain an immunization certificate that is the same as the nationally recognized credential as a licensed pharmacist. With this knowledge and training, we saw many interns at the Covid Vaccine sites throughout the State who were actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic, including participating in the immunization of children under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. During the pandemic pharmacy interns demonstrated that they could provide the services described in this bill. More importantly, members of the public and other health care providers have come to depend on them to provide these services, especially now where Hawai'i is perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers. We should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

We urge you to pass this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



**MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.**  
**EST. 1935**

January 30, 2024

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553 – Relating to Pharmacists**

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness:

As a rural healthcare provider, access to comprehensive, high-quality health care services is our mission at Moloka'i Drugs. On behalf of our employees and patients, I am testifying in favor of HB2553, which will allow our professional staff to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. We are currently immunizing children from 14-17 years old with signed permission from a parent or guardian.

This bill will also help our island's residents with six-days-a-week access. Moloka'i Drugs is open Monday to Saturday and services all customers needing vaccines. Currently, only two facilities -- Moloka'i General Hospital's Outpatient Clinic and Moloka'i Community Health Center -- vaccinate children under 14; you need to make an appointment in advance and registered as a patient of either medical facility. Both are open only Monday to Friday and closed on all major holidays.

At Moloka'i Drugs, all of our vaccinations are completed in a private, immunization room we specifically built in 2021. All of our vaccines are available via walk-in and no appointment is necessary.

Every week, we are asked by parents if we can give flu or other shots to their children. Pre-COVID-19, Moloka'i public school students were able to garner flu shots at their schools. Post-COVID-19, this is not an option.

Moloka'i is a medically underserved area and it is critical that we have access to serving our children. Moloka'i Drugs is here to serve our children. Therefore, we ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to immunize from age three and vote in support of HB2553. It is critical that we increase access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services on all islands.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Mikami Svetin /s/*

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



Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
January 31, 2024

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

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

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 pharmacist-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 regulation:

- 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.
- HIR documentation is currently required for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to administer to 14-17 years of age. HIR documentation is also required under the PREP Act.
- 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.
- 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 are healthcare professionals, also not regulated by the DCCA, that are vaccinating in other settings that do NOT receive this required level of training required by technicians and interns.
- 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.<sup>1</sup>

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](https://www.pacificresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AdultVaccination_F_web.pdf)

These professionals have proven themselves capable, providing a reliable and accessible avenue for vaccination services across many ages. Discontinuation would create a void in healthcare delivery, leading to potential delays in immunization and exacerbating existing healthcare disparities. **It would be a disservice to public health to abruptly remove these provisions without a contingency plan.**

We look forward to working towards a solution that proactively leverages community pharmacies to increase healthcare access and improve health outcomes for citizens across all islands.

Very respectfully,

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

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



January 30, 2024

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 2553 – PHARMACISTS VACCINATION AUTHORITIES**

Chairperson Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **HOUSE BILL 2553**, a bill that allows licensed pharmacists to independently order and administer vaccines to individuals 3 years and older. We **SUPPORT** this bill as it ensures pharmacists will be able to continue administering vaccines after their temporary federal authority to administer expires.

NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including owners of more than 19,400 independent community pharmacies across the United States and 44 independent pharmacies in Hawaii. These Hawaii pharmacies filled over 3 million prescriptions last year, impacting the lives of thousands of patients in your state. Over 90% of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy,<sup>1</sup> and more than any other segment of the pharmacy industry, independent community pharmacies are often located in underserved rural and urban areas. These pharmacies are frequently the most accessible healthcare providers in many Hawaii communities and are vital in the provision of immunizations, testing, and other services. This bill will not only allow pharmacies to expand their vaccination capacity but could also be an opportunity for patients without a medical home or primary care provider to be plugged in to the healthcare system and to access other services they might not otherwise receive.

With over 900 pharmacists practicing within Hawaii, approval of this legislation will allow pharmacists, pharmacy personnel, and pharmacies to meet the demand for health care services and continue to be a gateway for patients to access quality care. Hawaii pharmacists have been administering vaccines since October 2020, when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance related to the HHS Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19.

This federal guidance also authorized qualified pharmacy technicians, acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist, to administer Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccines to persons ages three or older and to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed ACIP-recommended vaccines to persons ages three through 18 according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP's) standard

---

<sup>1</sup> NCPDP Pharmacy File, ArcGIS Census Tract File, NACDS Economics Department.

immunization schedule.<sup>2</sup> In August 2021, this temporary federal authority was expanded to authorize qualified pharmacy technicians to administer seasonal influenza vaccines, under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist, to persons ages 19 and older consistent with ACIP recommendations.<sup>3</sup>

As beneficial as this temporary federal authority has been in expanding access to care and relieving some of the burden on an overstressed healthcare system, it is set to expire in **December 2024**. Approval of this bill will make this temporary federal authority permanent under state scope of practice, and it expands the authority to cover adult immunizations beyond influenza and COVID-19 as well.

NCPA strongly supports the Hawaii Pharmacists Association in their advocacy to make the federal PREP ACT authorities permanent for Hawaii pharmacists to order and administer vaccinations. We appreciate the committee's attention to this important public health, and we urge approval from its members.

Sincerely,



Belawoe Akwakoku  
Associate Director, State Government Affairs  
National Community Pharmacists Association

---

<sup>2</sup> Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing (October 20, 2020), <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Eighth Amendment to Declaration Under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 (August 4, 2021), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-08-04/pdf/2021-16681.pdf>



**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:23:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:20:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support HB2553 as written. Mahalo

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION  
OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at KTA Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens, in our state, from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would lose crucial accessibility of vaccination administration to pediatric patients at their local pharmacies. Many patients have expressed extreme gratitude and appreciation for being able to vaccinate their families at the pharmacy. Doctors and other healthcare professionals have expressed similar sentiment as it reduces their workday demand and allows them to provide additional services. Both doctors and patients have become dependent on pharmacists administering vaccines to pediatric patients. Many families present to the pharmacy with or without recommendations by other healthcare professionals. It has become the norm to get all vaccines from the pharmacy, and it is convenient for those who live far from town but close to their local pharmacies.

Lastly, pharmacy technicians play a crucial role in the pharmacy workflow process. Without them, the pharmacy would not run smoothly, and patients would not be able to get quality patient care they deserve. As prescription volume and responsibilities of a pharmacist increases, the need for pharmacy technician assistance increases. When given an incentive, technicians were willing to assist the pharmacist in vaccine administration to ensure workflow remains efficient.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,



Faith Hicks, Pharm D.  
Pharmacy Practice Instructor  
& Relief Pharmacist  
KTA Superstores

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at Longs Drugs, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would be hurt with the ease of accessibility to readily vaccinate themselves and their loved ones in the comfort of their neighborhood pharmacies. Everyday we get parents expressing their gratitude that we are able to vaccinate pediatrics because they are unable to schedule an appointment during normal doctors office business hours due to varying outside commitments. Our accessibility to vaccinate pediatric patients have made a direct impact in our vaccination efforts these past years to effectively vaccinate the community in an impactful manner.

Pharmacy technicians are integral to this initiative, most importantly in an outpatient retail setting. This most recent flu season, pharmacy technicians were responsible for administering about 80% of the vaccinations given to our community with the addition of the new recently approved COVID vaccines. What may seem like a small task that can allow another healthcare provider to administer vaccinations allowed for a major growth field of pharmacy. This bill will allow pharmacies to maximize their workflow, decrease workload and ultimately burnout, and improve our communities overall health outcomes.

Pharmacy technicians received a national immunization certification that included hands-on vaccination training. In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Lina Nguyen, Pharmacist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lina Nguyen', written in a cursive style.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:15:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lara Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Au Belatti and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am a registered pharmacist and am testifying in favor of HB2553/SB2568. This bill will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to provide immunization (vaccination) services to children, which communities across Hawaii need and have come to expect. During the pandemic, these activities were allowed as part of the PREP

Act, a federal emergency authorization which is set to expire on 12/31/2024. In summary, passage of this bill will allow me and my colleagues to continue doing our part in ensuring continued access to immunization/vaccination services, especially for children, across Hawaii.

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

My name is Jackwayne Fernandez of Honolulu HI, community pharmacist of 11+ years, and I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a community pharmacist at CVS/Longs Drugs serving one of the largest, most heavily populated areas of the island, my pharmacists, interns, and technicians and continue to be actively involved in the immunization effort from the earliest phases of the pandemic to the present. My CVS/Longs colleagues throughout the state as well as other retail pharmacies serving Hawaii have proven their capability, skillset, reliability, professionalism, and ease of access, to providing life-saving vaccinations over the last several years. Many other health care providers and members of the community routinely and preferentially depend on pharmacy-based immunization services. We continue to deliver on this important role that is direly needed especially with the state's healthcare worker shortage.

Of special importance is the provision of allowing duly trained pharmacy technicians to provide these immunizations. Pharmacy technicians are able to practice at the top of their license and professional training. As for my pharmacy, nearly 75% of my pharmacy technicians have invested in their careers by becoming immunizers, enjoying the rewards of increased pay, increased job satisfaction, and increased pride and inspiration to others. Multiplying these effects across our entire state, this undoubtedly encourages increased community utilization of these services, continued ease of access to vaccines especially in our most remote/rural areas, and provides a clear sense of growth and development in the pharmacy technician profession, inspiring the next generation of keiki to look to these fields as they enter the workforce.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our communities would undoubtedly suffer. Chilling effects include reduced access to immunization services, a decrease in population health, a burdensome shift in workload to other already overwhelmed health care workers.

I ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jackwayne Fernandez, PharmD, RPh  
Community Pharmacist – CVS/Longs Drugs

Date: January 30, 2024

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: **Support for HB2553**, Relating to Pharmacists

Hrg: Wednesday January 31, 2024 at 10:15am via Videoconference Conference Room 329

Aloha House Committee on Health & Homelessness,

As a parent, community member, licensed pharmacist and retired Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy faculty, I am writing in **strong support of HB2553**, which authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met, and, authorizes licensed pharmacists to order vaccines for administration to persons between the ages of three and seventeen.

This bill extends the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024, which allows for pharmacists and pharmacy personnel to administer vaccines to those three years and older.

Every county in Hawai'i contains one or more regions that are medically underserved. While stakeholders across the state are working together to attract and retain qualified providers we have yet to fully utilize existing resources, including the pharmacists and pharmacy personnel conveniently accessible and available in our local communities.

During the pandemic, with PREP Act authorization, we demonstrated how pharmacists and pharmacy personnel safely, effectively and conveniently provide vaccination services to protect the wellbeing of all of the people of our communities, including our kupuna and keiki.

I **strongly support HB2553**, respectfully ask you to pass it out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a practicing clinical pharmacist and faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and East Hawaii Health Clinic, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would lose access to the critical immunizations that keep the individuals and our public healthy. The community has grown accustomed to receiving immunizations from their community pharmacies, since it is a convenient way to ensure they get this necessary healthcare service. Many of our local physicians and other providers have been consistently referred patients to their community pharmacies to receive their immunizations as well. Without the ability for our pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to continue to provide these immunizations, our overall healthcare workforce would suffer and be at an even higher risk of burnout.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,



Jarred Prudencio, PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM



Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions since COVID, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician at KTA Superstores on the Big Island, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. In order to be able to take the national immunization training for pharmacy technicians, you need to first be a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians with proper training can provide the services described in this bill, under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. Providers and our communities have become dependent upon the increased services provided at pharmacies. This bill is critical to sustain the community pharmacy work force.

In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities. MA's in doctor's office are allowed to do this, with no certifications or requirements.

Should myself and my technician colleagues no longer be allowed to vaccinate, our workflow would become even more burdensome on the pharmacist and the patients, delaying how many vaccinations can be done in a given time. There is data from the CDC showing low vaccination rates in many areas of Hawaii, why would we go backwards now to hinder the efforts of increased vaccination rates that are proven to prevent disease and lower healthcare cost in the long run.

**Here on the Big Island, we serve very remote and rural communities. Everyone talks about increasing access on rural health. At KTA we are doing just that, going to the communities to provide these services, Pahala, Na'alehu, Miloli'i, Kealakekua, Captain Cook, Kona, Kohala, Waikoloa, Waimea, Honokaa, Paauilo, Laupahoehoe, Honomu, Pepeekeo, Papa'ikou, Hilo, Waiakea, Kaumana, Kea'au, HPP, Paho, Nanawale, Volcano. All of these places I have listed, we have gone to them, either an employer clinic, community health fair, or home-visit. A pharmacist and a CPhT who is able to vaccinate. We are making a difference.**

Also, pharmacy technicians play a crucial role in a pharmacy, ask any community pharmacist if you don't believe me. With the huge demand placed on community pharmacies and burnout happening, maintaining and recruiting pharmacy technicians has been a challenge. By passing this bill, we can work on promotion pathways and long-term careers for individuals as a technician. I recently got a grant with HPhA and PTCB to work on this exact initiative. Let's pass this bill and move the needle forward on increased access to care for ALL. Pharmacist and pharmacy technicians are on the front lines every day and so easily accessible by the public.

Please allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people through preventative measures, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

**Thank you so much for your time!!**

*Christina Requelman*

Christina Method Requelman

KTA Superstores Pharmacy – Big Island - CPhT

University of Hawaii at Hilo, The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy – Experiential Office

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:11:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wesley Sumida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in **strong support** of **HB2553** which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

Please allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to be involved in vaccine efforts that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians are valuable team members and are engaged in dispensing and administering vaccinations to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lehua Kay, PharmD

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to be involved in vaccine efforts that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians are valuable team members and are engaged in dispensing and administering vaccinations to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mark Mierzwa, PharmD, BCPP

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to continue to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen post-pandemic. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

Removing pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns from the pool of trained vaccinators will put additional burden on the remaining healthcare professionals left to vaccinate and decrease the number of patients receiving vaccinations. The PREP Act proved that pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and interns from all workplace settings (community pharmacies, long-term care, hospital, etc..) can provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare personnel to contribute to population health initiatives versus minimizing our resources.

Continuing to allow my colleagues and I to practice under the provisions of the PREP Act will help serve our community which is important now with the resurgence of COVID hospitalizations and cases from new variants. Hawaii deserves to have those pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns qualified to vaccinate continue to utilize their skills to help those requesting to be vaccinated. This is not the time to be removing patient access to vaccinations being delivered by their neighborhood pharmacies and other clinics.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy Matsuyama".

Joy Matsuyama, PharmD, BCPS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR  
SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS Hearing on Wednesday,  
January 31, 2024 10:15 AM Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness, I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024. As a pharmacist at Safeway Pharmacy in Hilo, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives. Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would lose a crucial resource that has given our residents the access to care that they need.

I have personally given thousands of vaccines since the start of the pandemic and remember a time when it was only offered at the Hilo Hospital or at large vaccination clinics. Since then, pharmacists have played a huge role in providing these vaccines to both keiki and kupuna, especially when many doctor offices do not offer or have storage capabilities for the vaccines. We offer a convenient way for people to get vaccines, especially for those with limited mobility, scheduling conflicts due to work/school and/or access to resources such as computers or internet to make their appointments. By allowing community pharmacies to continue with vaccination efforts, those that have limited resources are able to get the care they need without the stress or hassle of trying to make an appointment or find a place or means to get to a site of vaccination. Also, a lot of our kupuna are so thankful that we offer these services because they do not have access to the internet or even someone at home to help them sign up for an appointment. I have had so many of our kupuna come to thank us for our services, but especially offering walk-ins and being able to help them with their forms, insurance.

We also helped to offer smaller clinics at schools and workplaces in order for keiki and working members of the community access within their work or school day. I have also had many parents bring their keiki to the pharmacy for vaccination because their pediatricians do not offer the vaccine and do not have the staffing to accommodate so many families. Keiki who are afraid or hesitant to get vaccination also are offered a reassuring place that is not so "scary" as the doctors office or at a large venue with hundreds of people.

Please also considering allowing pharmacy technicians to continue with vaccine efforts as well. Our technicians have been working for many years and have been here since the start of the pandemic. They are also a crucial part of our team and without them, a lot of community members will lack the care they need or a delay in timing of when they would get their vaccines

and other services. Since the start of pandemic, we have also seen an increase in pay wages for technicians that are able to help with vaccination efforts as well as a sense of pride in protecting those within our community. Personally, our certified technicians were there for every covid clinic we had and played a crucial role when we were losing nurses and other healthcare providers or lacking because of the shortage of healthcare providers who could give vaccines.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Young PharmD

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:06:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Gonzalez	Longs Drugs Big Island	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of 3 and 17. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist and District Leader at Longs Drugs, overseeing all 10 pharmacies on the Big Island, I and my teams were actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our community from illnesses that cause deaths and hospitalizations unnecessarily.

The pandemic proved that community pharmacies provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community could suffer, because our technicians being able to immunize increases access to vaccines significantly and allows our pharmacists to spend more time with patients that need us the most.

It could mean the difference between spending 5 minutes with an elderly diabetic patient confused about all the meds they are taking or their glucomete, and being able to spend 15 or 20 min with them, knowing our techs can continue providing care on our behalf.

For the technicians, this presents an opportunity for them to grow in their careers in a way they wouldn't be able to otherwise. It means they can earn more income to provide better for their families. It means they are able to play a critical role in protecting their friends and family in the community from spreading illnesses like Whooping Cough and RSV that kill babies and young children.

Our technicians have overwhelmingly enjoyed being able to take part in vaccination efforts and our pharmacists are well qualified to train them in doing so safely and effectively.



We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians have undertaken the increasingly important role of providing access to vaccination opportunities that patients may not have gotten elsewhere. In the current situation, medical/doctor offices may not even provide vaccinations due to financial or staffing issues and rely on the pharmacies in the community to fill in the gap. This is especially important in regions where there is often limited access to medical care or to persons who are unable to work around having to schedule often limited appointments with medical offices. Pharmacists have been dubbed "the most accessible healthcare provider" in the past few years due to our contributions to patients wellbeing and healthcare as a whole these past few years during the ongoing COVID pandemic. Patients who may not have otherwise been vaccinated due to either lacking a primary care provider or being unable to schedule appointments, being uninsured or underinsured, or a multitude of other reasons have now been able to vaccinate their families more easily, improving not only their health outcomes but their communities as well.

During the COVID pandemic as a pharmacist intern in NY, I helped vaccinate hundreds of patients of varying ages. I was able to see the relief overcome overworked and scared parents who otherwise would not have been able to get their children vaccinated. I grew relationship with these families as they came back again and again for various boosters or other needed vaccines (as well as prescriptions). I remember there was a mother caring for a sick daughter with multiple health conditions who was so joyful we were able to provide the COVID vaccine for them as their primary care doctors did not stock it nor did they provide that care for their patients. Not only will allowing pharmacies to keep this practice that has been so ingrained into collaborative healthcare practice that it may have devesting effects if removed but it also helps struggling independent pharmacies with much needed additional patients and income.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely

Daniel Levin, PharmD.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:17:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Khanh Vy Tran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at Mauiola Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life-threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with healthcare providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would be provided with a shield of immunity, protecting vulnerable individuals and reducing the overall burden of illness. It's a collective effort that promotes public health and saves lives.

Pharmacy technicians play a pivotal role in the pharmacy team, and enabling them to administer vaccines not only expands their scope of practice but also enhances patient interaction. This step not only makes the job more meaningful for technicians by directly impacting patient health but also eases the workload for pharmacists. With technicians handling vaccinations, pharmacists can focus on precise prescription filling and other tasks, optimizing the efficiency and impact of the entire pharmacy team.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the well-being of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:27:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Adam Woynaroski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support and encourage passing HB2553. Our aina is in desperate need of healthcare providers. Our people deserve the highest level of care. The provisions of the bill will allow our local people to take care of our local people. Preventing disease and illness through immunizations is the simplest, most cost effective intervention available. Our pharmacy technicians and pharmacists are the most convenient and accessible healthcare providers in the country, and especially in our state. Where I am on the big island, I know I can stop by and see a pharmacist or technician whenever I need it. Being able to get immunizations there should be considered a right. I trust those technicians. They are good people, from our communities, who have the training and ability to improve lives thru their care. Let's Malama Pomo and pass this bill. Thank you



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician and Director of Operation at Mauiola Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians can provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities have become dependent upon. In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities.

As the pharmacist role has expanded, putting vaccinations back on their plate would impede our current workflow. Since the pandemic our community relies on us to provide their vaccinations and has created a high demand for mobile vaccine clinics and in pharmacy vaccinations. At Mauiola Pharmacy, we would love our pharmacy technicians to administer 75% of the vaccines. This will allow our pharmacists more time to provide quality one-on-one care and education with our patients.

We ask that you allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

Mahalo,

Tori Ching, CPhT  
Director of Operations  
Mauiola Pharmacy

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:34:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heather Kishida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at Sam's Club, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

My colleagues and I would love to be the accessible medical professional easily available to help serve our communities when they are not able to contact their prescribers immediately. Throughout the pandemic, we have built long lasting relationships with our patients in whom rely on our efficient immunization services for protection.

Lastly, we wouldn't have been able to do it without our valued pharmacy technicians. They have played an integral role throughout the pandemic in getting immunization and CPR certified to be able to provide vaccinations to our communities. Our technicians support pharmacists on a daily basis with workflow, which can get hectic when there's only 1 pharmacist and 1 technician to process prescriptions and accept both appointments and walk-ins for immunization services.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.



Sincerely,  
Heather Kishida, PharmD

Pharmacy Manager

Sam's Club 6410

Phone: 808.454.0182

Fax: 808.454.0392

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:35:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Ferreira	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a Pharmacist and District Manager at Longs Drugs, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

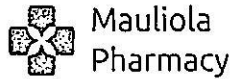
Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would greatly suffer. My teams and I stood side by side on the front lines from day 1 of the COVID pandemic, never once closing our doors to allow for vital, continued access to healthcare for the community during that time. Although I have personally administered numerous vaccinations, it was truly our pharmacy technicians that carried the brunt of the immunization services for our communities during this time.

Pharmacy Technicians supported a vital need when many provider offices were closed due to lockdowns to ensure our people that needed it most, including frontline workers received their vaccinations. If they were no longer able to vaccinate, this would further increase the stress on an

already overburdened local health care system. The ability to vaccinate has not only expanded the impact our numerous Longs Drugs pharmacies can have on the communities they serve, but also provided additional career growth opportunities for our workforce within our stores. Incentives earned to provide vaccines during critical periods of influx greatly reduced the burden of the volume of life saving vaccines provided by the pharmacist directly during this time. A hugely added benefit being this freed our time as pharmacists to provide dedicated time to patients needing counseling on their medications and health related concerns. The community has become accustomed to our services provided, specifically vaccinations, and we continue to be the primary trusted partner of healthcare providers across the state that allow for easy access to our stores via walk-in or by appointment. We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Me ke aloha,

Nicholas Ferreira, Pharm.D.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician at Mauiola Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians can provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities have become dependent upon.

In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities.

As the pharmacist role has expanded, putting vaccinations back on their plate would impede our current workflow. Since the pandemic our community relies on us to provide their vaccinations and has created a high demand for mobile vaccine clinics and in pharmacy vaccinations. At Mauiola Pharmacy, we would love our pharmacy technicians to administer 75% of the vaccines. This will allow our pharmacists more time to provide quality one-on-one care and education with our patients.

We ask that you allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

Mahalo,

Joslyn Shigeta, CPhT-ADV  
Mauiola Pharmacy

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM  
Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will continue to allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a community based ambulatory care pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. During the pandemic, my work days would often involve doing community based “home visits” to provide immunizations to home-bound patients. This service was greatly needed and appreciated by the community, and I truly cannot begin to imagine what many of these home-bound patients would have faced without this pharmacy support. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai’i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives. Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would have significant decreased access to preventative healthcare.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Thank you,

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:55:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Glick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning. I have been a pharmacist for over 40 years. Pharmacists are trained and experienced to administer a variety of immunizations. Please support this bill to enable pharmacists to practice at their highest level of the profession.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist in the Hawaii island community, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would continue to have access to vaccines and pharmacies would be able to expand these services without restrictions, especially to the pediatric population. With the passage of this bill, pharmacies could continue to offer additional opportunities for patients to be vaccinated, whether this be at mass vaccination clinics or community events. The ability for pharmacies to expand will also rely heavily on the ability of a pharmacy technician to administer vaccinations under the supervision of a pharmacist. During the pandemic, pharmacy technicians proved to be an integral piece to providing vaccinations in our community. If pharmacy technicians were no longer able to vaccinate, this would increase the workload on the pharmacist that ultimately could impact our ability to expand vaccination services.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Dayna Wong-Otis, PharmD, CDCES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician at Longs Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians can provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities have become dependent upon.

In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities.

Should myself and my technician colleagues no longer be allowed to vaccinate, our workflow would become harder for the pharmacists on duty, as well as diminish working hours for technicians.

Technicians who are also able to vaccinate patients receive a pay increase during peak seasons. A lot of technicians rely on that pay increase for their lively hoods, and while peak season is during the holidays a lot of them rely on that extra pay boost to help support their families. If technicians are unable to vaccinate, they not only lose the extra pay, but their hours for the store will also decrease when it is needed most. Workflow for the pharmacy will be affected and instead of pulling a technician to vaccinate a patient you are pulling a pharmacist who is needed for consultations, script verification, and their other daily duties. Daily pharmacy tasks will severely struggle with already an overworked and under appreciated profession. Patients will be waiting even longer for vaccinations if there is only one pharmacist on duty, verses if there is a pharmacist and 4 technicians who are able to vaccinate. The workload needs to be distributed fairly, and by removing the technician immunizers, we would be putting a bigger burden on our pharmacist. As a technician my goal is to make the on duty pharmacist job easier, not harder and if we are unable to vaccinate patients will be surely making their daily jobs harder.

We ask that you allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

Thank you for your time, and I hope the correct call is made.

Jessica Bauernhuber



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives that we are adequately trained to provide.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, it would put the most vulnerable segments of our population at risk. Our keiki and kupuna will lose critical access to potentially life saving immunizations.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Warmest Regards,

Chad Kawakami Pharm.D., BCPS

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:12:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie M Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness, I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy

technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill

represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these

actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at

the University of Hawaii Maui College, lecturer for Pharmacy Technician Certification.

I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services

described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to

these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in

healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population

health initiatives.. or

medically underserved area. Feel free to share personal stories about opportunities that would be available should you be able to continue to vaccinate pediatric patients and how specifically your community has become dependent on these services.

Lastly, pharmacy technicians are integral to this initiative, relieving pharmacists to devote more time for individual medication evaluation and care. If pharmacy technicians were no longer able to vaccinate, if pharmacy technicians were no longer allowed to workflow, work load increases and may inadvertently decrease positive overall health outcomes. Technicians experience an escalation in job satisfaction and roles in health care team.

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.  
Valerie MK Matsunaga, PharmD

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:14:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in opposition of HB 2553

Aloha,

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and a licensed pharmacist in this state. While pharmacists are more readily accessible than physicians, I am opposed to vaccines 'ordering', in effect prescribing, without a physician's consent and order. Pediatricians, family care physicians, and their physician assistants should be the prescribers and those who administer and monitor each child's vaccination. Record keeping should be kept with the child's pediatrician and family care physicians to ensure continuity of care, which will be altered with the codifying of this bill in its current wording and intent creating 'communication gaps' between parents and physicians.

Additionally, children from infant to the age of seventeen are under parental care and authority. All vaccinations are voluntary as well. On page 3 lines 4 to 9 of this Act it states, "Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to: (1) Authorize licensed pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, **if certain requirements are met.**" The remainder of this Act references pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians but it does not address **parental consent**. Parental consent is an inherent right not a subjective one. Welfare and well being of a child is under the parental (and guardian) authority and is subject to their consent prior to any mental or physical health matters, and medical administration and procedures.

I am opposed to HB 2553 in its current wording and intent to side step parents and physicians who are primary and vital caregivers in a child's overall health and well being.

Mahalo,

Sharon Martin

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:14:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyssa Pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As the Director of Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would negatively impacted making it harder for people to receive crucial and life saving vaccines. Additional sentiments can be shared about the population you serve, especially if you are in a remote or medically underserved area. Feel free to share personal stories about opportunities that would be available should you be able to continue to vaccinate pediatric patients and how specifically your community has become dependent on these services.

Lastly, please share the importance of how pharmacy technicians are integral to this initiative, if applicable to your work setting. If pharmacy technicians were no longer able to vaccinate, how would this contribute to workflow, work load and overall health outcomes. Has this increased their pay, work satisfaction, growth trajectory, etc.?

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Alyssa Pang, Director of Times Pharmacy

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:15:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis Le	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness, I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024. As a pharmacist, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to be involved in vaccine efforts that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives. Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians are valuable team members and are engaged in dispensing and administering vaccinations to keep our communities safe and healthy. We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Dennis Le, PharmD

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:26:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kerri Okamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2553.



LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a Clinical Pharmacy Manager at Times, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

This bill also means a lot to me even at my personal level because our Mobile Vaccination Clinic Team has been providing many vaccinations to children at the schools. While their parents might be working and too busy to take them to pediatrician for vaccinations, our team is able to assist them in a timely manner. We always receive great feedbacks from the parents in regard to how they trust our team and having mobile vaccination clinics at schools is very convenient for them. If and when this bill passes, we will be able to continue providing vaccinations to children in order to increase the vaccination rate in our communities and to protect the children from vaccine preventable diseases in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration and I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

*Mia Tran-Cao*

**Mia Tran-Cao, Pharm. D.**

Clinical Pharmacy Manager

1620 North School Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

P: (808) 832-8257

F: (808) 832-8268

E: [mtran@times-supermarket.com](mailto:mtran@times-supermarket.com)

01/30/2024

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:52:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

**To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,**

**I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.**

**As a pharmacist at KTA, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.**

**Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would not be able to provide ease of access to routine vaccinations to our already underserved community. We have a shortage of doctors and healthcare providers as it is. Further, the DOH have not been in the schools to provide routine annual flu vaccinations to our children. The community has become reliant on community pharmacies to be a resource to provide a vast majority of immunizations to children especially over the past few years. Without the help of the pharmacies, the responsibility and burden falls entirely on the pediatricians in our already stressed community.**

**Our technicians also have been integral in our ability at the community pharmacy level to administer immunizations to the children in our community. These qualified technicians have been nationally certified and have also been required to take the APHA immunization program, the same program pharmacists are required to take to become certified to give vaccines. With the PREP act over the past few years, our technicians have been able to**

**expand their scope of practice and be directly involved in protecting our community against preventable diseases. Their work is essential to help with distributing the workload in the community pharmacy setting. They are directly supervised by the pharmacists they practice under and have proven to be an important part of this initiative.**

**We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.**

**Sincerely,**

**Travis Young**

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:54:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marjie Balais	CVS LONGS DRUGS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am a pharmacy technician and am all in support to this bill because it gives an opportunity for us to increase our pay. It also allows us to help the pharmacist take away some work load so they can focus on other essential work.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:58:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heather Harai	CVS/Longs	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am currently a certified technician with CVS/Longs. Part of the reason for my certification was to become an immunizer and assist my team during the highest volume times, primarily flu season and when new vaccines are introduced. Our pharmacies here on the Big Island are already so over burdened that many people often have to wait for weeks to receive vaccinations. This is a delay in ensuring the well being of our communities, businesses and families. Pharmacists are not able to administer all the vaccinations needed and effectively run the pharmacy. Extremely long lines have become more of a norm which shouldn't be, especially during high flu times. Having additional techs certified to be able to administer vaccinations allows better customer service, faster response during high volume epidemics and flu seasons, and creates a healthier community for all of us.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:58:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stareynelle Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is vital for immunizations and vaccines to be administered. The opportunity to allow RPh's, CPhT's and PhT's will be beneficial to all. It will provide a sense of belonging, community, trust, and responsibility.

## Testimony in Support of HB2553 - Pharmacy Advocacy

Dear honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am writing today to express my strong support for HB2553, a bill that relates to pharmacists and their role in administering vaccinations. As a pharmacy advocate, I firmly believe that this legislation will have a positive impact on public health and enhance access to vital immunization services.

The findings presented in the bill highlight the importance of routine childhood vaccinations and the potential risks associated with decreased vaccination rates during times of health care access changes and social distancing measures. By empowering pharmacists to administer vaccines, especially in medically underserved areas or where there is a limited number of pediatricians or primary care providers, we can bridge gaps in healthcare access and ensure more individuals receive necessary immunizations.

Studies show that by 2032, the United States will face a shortage of up to 122,000 physicians. This means the demand for care will continue to rise and so will the need for healthcare access. Pharmacists are trusted healthcare professionals that have proven to play a critical role within our communities. On average, high-risk patients see their pharmacists 35 times per year whereas only visiting their primary care physician 4 times. Therefore, the established relationships between pharmacists and their patients allow them to provide personalized care and support throughout the vaccination process while fulfilling the demand for healthcare access and services.

Moreover, the authorization granted by the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) during the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that pharmacists are capable of safely administering vaccines to children aged three to seventeen. This extension through HB2553 will ensure continued access to these services beyond December 31, 2024.

The proposed requirements outlined in HB2553, such as informing patients about well-child visits with primary care providers and maintaining accurate vaccination records, demonstrate a commitment to patient safety and coordinated care. These provisions contribute to enhancing overall healthcare quality while ensuring appropriate follow-up measures are taken.

In conclusion, HB2553 presents an opportunity for pharmacies and pharmacists to expand their role in public health by providing essential vaccination services. The inclusion of pharmacists as vaccine administrators will improve accessibility, especially for underserved populations. It will also leverage their expertise as trusted healthcare professionals while adhering to necessary precautions.

I urge you to support this important legislation by voting in favor of HB2553. Together, we can strengthen public health initiatives and promote comprehensive healthcare across our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Leia Nu

Pharmacy Advocate

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy technicians under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccinations, when certain requirements are met, that include national certification and hands on immunization training. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacy technician at Longs Drugs, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. I received a national immunization certification that included hands on vaccination training. The pandemic proved that pharmacy technicians can provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities have become dependent upon.

In the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to proactive population health initiatives. Pharmacy technicians are adequately trained to administer vaccinations and should be allowed to continue given the proof of concept established through the PREP Act authorities.

Should myself and my technician colleagues no longer be allowed to vaccinate, our workflow would become overwhelming as administering vaccines would shift back onto the scope of our Pharmacists. On the Big Island, pharmacy technician vaccines at more than half of our locations, and we continue to have technicians interested in being trained at all of our other locations. In 2022 & 2023, my pharmacy technician colleagues and I administered nearly 9,000 vaccines.

As a pharmacy technician who also hires and trains other pharmacy technicians, it's imperative to me that I'm able to source talent, to bring candidates into a role that requires technical skill. Having a path for growth and development is part of the draw for potential colleagues to join the ranks of pharmacy technicians all over the islands. Utilizing my skillset to support my community is an honor that I would like to continue. It has been a privilege to serve the island of Hawaii in this capacity. My community brings their families to receive immunizations at our pharmacies because they know us, they trust us, they know we'll take care of them and frankly, we are a more convenient access point for care than their local clinic providers.

I ask that you allow pharmacy technicians to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of SB2553.

Respectfully,

Sarah Guzman





**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:14:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Sprenkel	CVS Health	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

As a registered pharmacist working in Hawaii for the past 6 years this bill is critical in supporting the already struggling and under staffed market of retail pharmacies across the state. Without the support of ancillary staff of pharmacy technicians in regards to being able to vaccinate, it is the patients that will suffer the most. The wait times and access to proper healthcare will be diminished. The outer islands will suffer the most as Doctor offices and clinics are already in short supply so the community relies on the local pharmacies for a lot of their healthcare needs. Studies have shown that when patient's have to wait too long or schedule a vaccine for a later date, they don't end up getting the vaccine to keep them healthy. With Hawaii being one of the only states in the country that does not require technicians to be licensed with the board or nationally certified, giving them the advanced skill of vaccinating allows them to feel like they are making a real difference in their community and helping patient's on their path to better health. It also allows the technicians to earn a higher rate of pay which is even more important than ever with the costs of living and the rate of inflation over the past couple years.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:52:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Yamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this bill. I support this bill because it will let pharmacy teams continue to protect communities on all islands by alleviating some of the overwhelming workload at clinics or private practices, schools, and workload of pharmacist as we help patients with their medicines either on the phone or in-person or filling prescriptions. I strongly believe in patient centered care and having this bill passed will help enable this to happen. When I am working and having to do all tasks without the assistance of an tech/intern immunizer, I feel we are not giving the attention to all patients wholeheartedly and in a timely manner as we would like. As opposed to when I do have assistance we are able to help patients without having them wait for me to get back. For example, if a person came in with a prescription from the emergency room/urgent care/doctor office I would like to get the prescription out to them as fast as possible so they can be on their way to getting better or feeling better. Another example, if a patient/caregiver has a question I would like to be able to answer to them without having them wait. I believe this bill will build stronger relationships amongst our communities other health care providers and pharmacies.

Mahalo for your time,

Denise Yamasaki

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
**Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**Testimony in Support for HB2553**

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacy interns under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to continue administration of vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen, if certain requirements are met. This bill will extend the services already permitted in the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2024.

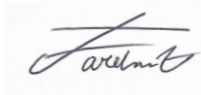
As a pharmacy intern, I received vaccination training and earned an immunization certificate, the same nationally-recognized credential as a licensed pharmacist. With this knowledge and training, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic, including participating in the immunization of children under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. During the pandemic pharmacy interns demonstrated that we are capable of providing the services described in this bill. More importantly, members of the public and other health care providers have come to depend on us to provide these services.

My personal experiences related to vaccination administration include working with children and adults in the Kona community at Longs Drugs community, community care homes, outreach efforts, etc.) setting. As an immunizer, not only do I help prevent the spread of disease, but also educate the public on various illnesses. During this time, I share about the effectiveness of vaccines and why they are important. As a patient comes in for one vaccine, I am also able to triage which other ones they may need and administer it then too. This helps for the patient's convenience while preventing treatable illnesses. I recall one of my patients earlier this month who shared with me her hesitancy of the Covid vaccine as she was unsure to get the booster or not. I able to share with her about how despite the quickness of its introduction, that the vaccine was still safe and effective. We built rapport, and by the end of our 10 minute conversation, she received her booster that day.

Please allow us to continue to serve and protect the wellbeing of the people of Hawaii alongside pharmacists and pharmacy technicians by passing this bill.

Farehaa Hussain

PharmD Candidate, Class of 2024



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 COMMITTEE  
ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024.

As a pharmacist at Longs Pharmacy Store #10848, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening diseases. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with health care providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawai'i perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives.

Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer greatly. This would negatively impact accessibility and wait times for both prescriptions and vaccines within the pharmacy. We serve a very hard-working community, many who often do not have time to make an appointment in advance, or wait long hours at the pharmacy for a vaccine. Allowing our technicians to administer COVID and Flu vaccines, and hopefully all vaccines in the future, offsets the workload of Pharmacists in a HUGE way. Many are not aware that Pharmacists are handling 5-10+ tasks at any given time, which include: typing, filling and verifying prescriptions for multiple patients in less than 15 minutes, resolving drug interactions and discrepancies, answering phone calls, taking in verbal orders from physicians, resolving insurance discrepancies and patient complaints, etc. all at once. The list often seems endless, and we are doing all of these tasks while verifying, preparing, and administering 1-4 vaccines to patients who are walking in and who have made appointments online. Please keep in mind, most of our pharmacies are running short-staffed, with not enough technician coverage on most days. The fact that certified technicians are able to help the pharmacist with this single task makes the pharmacy workflow A LOT more manageable, and pharmacy workflow much safer for the patient and community overall. Words can't even explain how beneficial tech immunizers have been to our pharmacies and how much impact they've had to the entire community, since the PREP act was authorized and put in place. It often feels like we would not have made it through COVID, or even flu season(s) without their help. Pharmacists are burnt out, **please don't take our tech immunizers away.** We took an oath to be there for our community, and this will allow us to continue serving the patient we love and care about to the best of our abilities. Ultimately it's about them: our grandmas, grandpas, uncles, aunties, parents, children, grandchildren etc. THEY are who we are serving and protecting every single day and their lives matter!

We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration!

Carli Ho'opi'i

Pharmacy Manager

Longs Pharmacy 10848

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:56:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I see parents being *informed* in this legislation but don't see anything about informed and signed PARENTAL CONSENT anywhere.

*Informing* parents about the importance of vaccinations is one thing but *administering* vaccinations in absence of informed parental consent is another, esp for children between the ages of 3 - 17.

Esp in flu vaccinations the question "Are you allergic to eggs?" often comes up - young children probably wouldn't know the answer to this & it's too risky to administer and hope for the best/that there is no allergic reaction no matter what degree of professional is administering.

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:09:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carrie Shibata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Au Belatti and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness, I am testifying in favor of HB2553 which will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations to persons between the ages of three and seventeen. This bill represents an extension of the federal emergency authorization PREP Act, which allowed for these actions, and is set to expire at the end of 2024. As a pharmacist at Times Aiea Pharmacy, I was actively involved in the immunization effort during the pandemic and have continued to administer vaccinations that are critical for protecting citizens in our state from life threatening disease. The pandemic proved that community pharmacy employees provide the services described in this bill, with healthcare providers and our communities now depending on us for access to these services. Additionally, in the setting of a healthcare crisis in Hawaii perpetuated by shortages in healthcare workers, we should be leveraging all qualified healthcare entities to contribute to population health initiatives. Should my colleagues and I have the provisions of the PREP Act removed, our community would suffer. Additional sentiments can be shared about the population you serve, especially if you are in a remote or medically underserved area. Feel free to share personal stories about opportunities that would be available should you be able to continue to vaccinate pediatric patients and how specifically your community has become dependent on these services. We ask that you allow pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to continue to protect the wellbeing of the people, including kupuna and keiki, of Hawaii by voting in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Carrie Shibata



**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:24:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

**HB-2553**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:14:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shogo Miyagi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 10:15 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2553

To the Honorable Chair Au Belatti and Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I am Shogo John Miyagi, PharmD, PhD, MS, BCPPS, a clinical pharmacy instructor at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy and practicing pediatric clinical pharmacist and pharmacologist at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. My experience extends across California, Washington DC, and the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA). I am writing unequivocally in strong support of HB2553, which authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines to individuals aged three to seventeen.

Pharmacists are rigorously trained during school and have proven to be well-equipped for providing vaccinations. This was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and underscored our role as providers of public health. I myself gave vaccinations to the general public at the HPH Pier 2 COVID clinic once the vaccine became available. And all this medical information was passed along to pediatricians through the Hawai'i Immunization Registry, which is still currently used.

The concern raised by some pediatricians—that pharmacist-administered vaccinations could lead to a decrease in wellness visits—does not align with observed realities. In fact, children who are most likely to miss wellness visits are often the ones with lower rates of immunizations. These are precisely the children who stand to benefit most from pharmacist involvement. Additionally, it's worth noting that many parents who choose to vaccinate their children at pharmacies do so either after-school or after-work hours—times when traditional pediatrician offices are often closed.

Together, these reasons highlight the complementary nature of continuing to allow pharmacists to vaccinate children without detracting from the essential services provided by pediatricians. Given the fact that pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare providers and there is an

ongoing healthcare worker shortage in the state, the continued integration of pharmacists in the vaccination of children addresses current disparities in providing equitable medical care.

For the health and wellbeing of our keiki, I strongly urge your support for HB2553 to continue utilizing the full capabilities of pharmacists.

Sincerely,  
Shogo John Miyagi, PharmD, PhD, MS, BCPPS  
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy