
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO
ESTABLISH AND CONVENE A PHARMACY REIMBURSEMENT WORKING
GROUP TO EXPLORE AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION FOR THE 2026
LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii continues to face a shortage of health care
2 providers, particularly in rural areas and the neighbor islands;
3 and

4
5 WHEREAS, pharmacies serve as a vital resource for health
6 care delivery in the State because they are conveniently located
7 and easily accessible to underserved communities; and

8
9 WHEREAS, pharmacists today play an increasingly vital role
10 in health care and can provide patient care services beyond the
11 traditional role of dispensing prescription medication, such as
12 medication therapy management, immunizations, health screenings,
13 chronic disease management, and patient education and
14 counseling; and

15
16 WHEREAS, pharmacists perform these functions in concurrence
17 with health care facilities and in accordance with policies,
18 procedures, and protocols developed collaboratively by health
19 professionals, including physicians, surgeons, and registered
20 nurses, and for which pharmacists have received appropriate
21 training to perform; and

22
23 WHEREAS, pharmacies can help with cost savings by
24 preventing hospital readmissions and managing chronic
25 conditions, thereby reducing the overall cost of health care and
26 increasing positive patient outcomes; and

27
28 WHEREAS, reimbursements to pharmacies and registered
29 pharmacists who safely provide health care services within their
30 scope of practice is cost effective and brings the State closer
31 to meeting the health care needs of the community, while
32 strengthening the integrated care team model that has been
33 proven effective for many of the State's most vulnerable
34 patients; and



1
2 WHEREAS, in 2023, the Office of the Auditor issued a report
3 assessing the social and financial impacts of mandating health
4 insurance coverage for services provided by pharmacists; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that reimbursement from
7 patients' health plans is the next step to ensure that
8 pharmacists in the State can maximize their clinical services
9 and practice within their full scope of licensure pursuant to
10 chapter 461, Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2025, that the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
15 requested to establish a Pharmacy Reimbursement Working Group to
16 study mandatory health insurance coverage and payment for health
17 care services provided by pharmacists and to propose legislation
18 mandating reimbursement for pharmacy services to be introduced
19 in the Regular Session of 2026; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Commerce and
22 Consumer Affairs is requested to invite the Insurance
23 Commissioner, one representative of the Board of Pharmacy, two
24 representatives from the retail pharmacy community, one
25 representative from an independent pharmacists' association, and
26 two representatives from the health insurance industry to
27 participate as members of the Working Group; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement
30 Working Group is requested to:
31

- 32 (1) Meet regularly to gather information about pharmacy
33 reimbursement practices with the goal of requiring
34 reimbursement for health care services provided by
35 pharmacists acting within their scope of practice in
36 the State;
37
38 (2) Discuss the impact of reimbursement for pharmacists
39 providing health care services in the State and
40 examine whether the lack of reimbursement poses a
41 hardship on individuals needing treatment, the extent
42 to which the proposed mandatory insurance coverage



1 would impact access to care in the State, and the
2 impact of providing coverage for the treatment or
3 service to the pharmacist or pharmacy;

4
5 (3) Draft proposed legislation that would require health
6 insurers in the State to provide coverage for health
7 care services provided by licensed pharmacists acting
8 within their scope of practice, and to fairly
9 reimburse pharmacies or pharmacists for those services
10 provided within their scope of practice under
11 chapter 461, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

12
13 (4) Evaluate pharmacists in other jurisdictions and the
14 kind of services being provided within their scope of
15 practice and whether those services would have a
16 significant impact on preventative care services in
17 the State; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement
20 Working Group submit a written report of its findings and
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
22 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
23 the Regular Session of 2026; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
27 Consumer Affairs, Insurance Commissioner, and Executive Officer
28 of the Board of Pharmacy.

29
30
31

OFFERED BY: George Teles
MAR 07 2025

