

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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



# S.C.R. NO. 70

1 strengthening the integrated care team model that has been  
2 proven effective for many of the State's most vulnerable  
3 patients; and

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

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

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

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

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement  
34 Working Group is requested to:

- 35  
36 (1) Meet regularly to gather information about pharmacy  
37 reimbursement practices with the goal of requiring  
38 reimbursement for health care services provided by  
39 pharmacists acting within their scope of practice in  
40 the State;

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- 1           (2) Discuss the impact of reimbursement for pharmacists
- 2           providing health care services in the State and
- 3           examine whether the lack of reimbursement poses a
- 4           hardship on individuals needing treatment, the extent
- 5           to which the proposed mandatory insurance coverage
- 6           would impact access to care in the State, and the
- 7           impact of providing coverage for the treatment or
- 8           service to the pharmacist or pharmacy;
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- 10          (3) Draft proposed legislation that would require health
- 11          insurers in the State to provide coverage for health
- 12          care services provided by licensed pharmacists acting
- 13          within their scope of practice, and to fairly
- 14          reimburse pharmacies or pharmacists for those services
- 15          provided within their scope of practice under
- 16          chapter 461, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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- 18          (4) Evaluate pharmacists in other jurisdictions and the
- 19          kind of services being provided within their scope of
- 20          practice and whether those services would have a
- 21          significant impact on preventative care services in
- 22          the State; and
- 23

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement  
 25 Working Group submit a written report of its findings and  
 26 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 27 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 28 the Regular Session of 2026; and

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 30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce  
 32 and Consumer Affairs, Insurance Commissioner, and Executive  
 33 Officer of the Board of Pharmacy.

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 36           OFFERED BY:


