
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR 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;
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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

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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

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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



1 to meeting the health care needs of the community, while
2 strengthening the integrated care team model that has been
3 proven effective for many of the State's most vulnerable
4 patients; and

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

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

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

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

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement
36 Working Group is requested to:

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



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

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

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

