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# SENATE 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  
31 to meeting the health care needs of the community, while  
32 strengthening the integrated care team model that has been



1 proven effective for many of the State's most vulnerable  
2 patients; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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41 (2) Discuss the impact of reimbursement for pharmacists  
42 providing health care services in the State and



1 examine whether the lack of reimbursement poses a  
2 hardship on individuals needing treatment, the extent  
3 to which the proposed mandatory insurance coverage  
4 would impact access to care in the State, and the  
5 impact of providing coverage for the treatment or  
6 service to the pharmacist or pharmacy;  
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8 (3) Draft proposed legislation that would require health  
9 insurers in the State to provide coverage for health  
10 care services provided by licensed pharmacists acting  
11 within their scope of practice and fairly reimburse  
12 pharmacies or pharmacists for those services provided  
13 within their scope of practice under chapter 461,  
14 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
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16 (4) Evaluate pharmacists in other jurisdictions and the  
17 kind of services being provided within their scope of  
18 practice and whether those services would have a  
19 significant impact on preventative care services in  
20 the State; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement  
23 Working Group submit a written report of its findings and  
24 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
25 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
26 the Regular Session of 2026; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and  
30 Consumer Affairs, Insurance Commissioner, and Executive Officer  
31 of the Board of Pharmacy.

