

MAR 07 2025

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
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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



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,
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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:
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- 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
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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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OFFERED BY: 

