

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE 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  
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  
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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,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
14 that the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested  
15 to establish a Pharmacy Reimbursement Working Group to study  
16 mandatory health insurance coverage and payment for health care  
17 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  
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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  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pharmacy Reimbursement  
30 Working Group is requested to:  
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- 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



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 to 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Insurance Commissioner, and Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy.

OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. A. 24", written over a horizontal line.