

## **Testimony of the Board of Pharmacy**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
2:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 2623, S.D. 2, RELATING TO LICENSING**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). The Board supports this bill and offers the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Board of Pharmacy to renew certificates of registration for registered pharmacy technicians. Clarifies renewal requirements and restoration provisions for certificates of registration. (SD1).

The Board supports this measure because it would allow for renewal of pharmacy technician registrations, rather than requiring the termination of all registrations on December 31 of each odd-numbered year and the simultaneous re-registration of more than 2,000 pharmacy technicians. Following the enactment of Act 93 (2025), the Board, in partnership with the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL), completed its first round of pharmacy technician registrations in preparation for the January 1, 2026, effective date. While the initial rollout proceeded as planned, the Board observed the administrative and industry strain that a non-renewable registration structure can create.

The Board appreciates the amendment to SB2623 SD1, and believes the change clearly reflects the original intent of Act 93, which did not include a continuing education requirement for pharmacy technician registration. Clarifying this provision will ensure consistency with existing law and avoid the unintended imposition of continuing education requirements.

In addition, after discussion at its March 19, 2026 publicly noticed meeting, the Board voted to reduce the minimum age of a registered pharmacy technician from “age of majority” as established in HRS 436B-10, to “at least 16 years of age”, which would be established in HRS 461 in Section 1 Definitions. The Board heard from industry

members noting that prior to Act 93, eligible 16-year-old persons could work as pharmacy technicians in the state allowing them to gain the experience needed to progress and hopefully remain in the profession or industry.

Accordingly, please accept the following amendment, adding a new Section to SB2623 SD2:

“Section \_\_. Section 461-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definition of “registered pharmacy technician” to read as follows:

“Registered pharmacy technician” means a person, exclusive of pharmacy interns and auxiliary pharmacy personnel, who is at least 16 years of age with a certificate of registration issued by the board pursuant to section 461-9.5, and who may, in addition to the tasks of an auxiliary pharmacy personnel, perform filling, packaging, manipulative, repetitive, or other nondiscretionary tasks, ~~and tasks specified in section 461-11.4,~~ only while assisting and while under the supervision and control of a registered pharmacist.; provided that to administer vaccinations, the registered pharmacy technician shall meet the requirements of section 461-11.4.”

Overall, the Board believes this requested amendment and subsequent bill will also reduce administrative burden on both the industry and the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 30, 2026

TO: Representative Scot Matayoshi  
Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Representative Tina Grandinetti  
Vice Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **S.B. 2623, SD2 - Relating to Licensing**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 2:05 PM**  
**Conference Room 329**

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Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

We submit this testimony in **support** of S.B. 2623, SD2, on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates stores at more than 9,000 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens has 13 stores on the islands of Oahu and Maui.

S.B. 2623, SD2 streamlines the pharmacy technician licensing process by allowing qualified licensees to “renew” rather than “re-register” every two years. This amendment aligns with the standard PVL licensing and renewal procedures already in place for pharmacists and fixes a technical oversight in Act 93 (2025) that passed last year.

Under the current framework for technician registration, technicians are required to re-register as if they were new applicants every two years, creating unnecessary paperwork and an administrative burden. By allowing for a renewal process, this measure streamlines licensing, allows for better tracking of credentials, and ensures that pharmacies and technicians remain compliant with State law.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2623 SD2** presented before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Corrie L. Sanders on behalf of  
The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association

Honorable Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association (HPhA) supports the proposed amendments to sections 461-8 and 461-9.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, relating to pharmacy technician registration. These changes appropriately modernize the pharmacy technician renewal process by allowing certificates of registration to be renewed biennially without requiring pharmacy technicians to restart the registration process entirely. Aligning the technician renewal framework with the processes used by other licensed health care professionals under the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs promotes administrative efficiency, workforce stability, and regulatory consistency. Clarifying that pharmacy technician registrations remain valid through the biennial cycle, and may be restored upon payment of applicable fees and proof of recent continuing education, removes unnecessary barriers that can disrupt the pharmacy workforce.

From a practice standpoint, these updates will help pharmacies maintain continuity of operations and patient care by reducing avoidable lapses in technician eligibility. Pharmacy technicians are essential members of the workforce, and a streamlined renewal pathway supports recruitment, retention, and compliance. HPhA appreciates that the measure preserves appropriate oversight while eliminating duplicative administrative burden.

HPhA also supports the Board of Pharmacy's proposed amendment to include pharmacy technicians aged 16 and older in the licensure process. Prior to the enactment of Act 93 (2025), this was permitted in practice. Pharmacy technicians perform their duties under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist, and maintaining a high school pipeline for technician recruitment is an important workforce development strategy for the profession.

For these reasons, the **Hawai'i Pharmacists Association supports SB 2623 SD2**. Mahalo for your consideration of this measure and the opportunity to testify.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrie L. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corrie L. Sanders, PharmD., BCACP, CPGx  
Executive Director, Hawai'i Pharmacists Association

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Head of Government Relations

Before:  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

March 31, 2026  
2:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference

**Re: SB 2623, SD2 Relating to Licensing.**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2623, SD2 which authorizes the Board of Pharmacy to renew certificates of registration for registered pharmacy technicians. Clarifies renewal requirements and restoration provisions for certificates of registration.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB 2623, SD2.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports Section 1 of SB 2623, SD2 as there are several clear benefits to implementing a renewal process rather than requiring full re-registration:

1. **Reduces administrative delays and inefficiencies** – when a certificate must be re-registered, the application must be reviewed as if it were new, which involves repeating identity verification, documentation checks, data entry, and manual processing steps. This inherently takes longer than a renewal, which typically requires only confirming continued eligibility and updating existing records. A renewal model, similar to what is already used for pharmacists, would streamline the process, shorten turnaround times, minimize delays in technicians maintaining active status, and reduce administrative burden.
2. **Prevents unnecessary reassignment of new registration numbers** – a renewal model enables technicians to retain a single, continuous registration number, improving accuracy, consistency, and traceability in pharmacy operations.
3. **Aligns Hawaii's technician registration structure with national norms** – most if not all states that currently register pharmacy technicians uses a renewal model rather than repeated re-registration. Aligning with this national standard promotes consistency and reduces confusion for technicians relocating to or from Hawaii.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**SB-2623-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 8:01:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/31/2026 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2623 SB RELATING TO LICENSING.