



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
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By  
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Dean

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### HB 676 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee:

My name is Carolyn Ma, and I am the Dean for the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). The college fully supports this bill that will allow registered pharmacists trained and certified in vaccine administration to administer the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine to 11-14 year old patients.

In relation to this bill, the DKICP, via the certified American Pharmacists Association (APHA) course, provides training in immunization administration in the first professional year. Students are expected to apply these skills in their experiential rotation courses throughout the remaining three years of training and also in numerous community health screening and immunization events. Courses in oncology, contraception, reproductive pharmacology and women's health, and pediatrics are taught in the 3<sup>rd</sup> professional year. Education is provided throughout the four year professional curriculum on medication assessment and therapeutic recommendations via related laboratory tests and subjective/objective findings related to disease and drug therapy. A similar curriculum is presented in all U.S. accredited (ACPE) colleges of pharmacy. The DKICP has also provided training to practicing pharmacists through their training program via the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association.

There is concern regarding the uptake of the HPV vaccine. In a recent survey of incoming freshmen performed at UH Mānoa and UH Hilo campuses 22% and 5%, respectively, have been fully vaccinated.<sup>1</sup> Students who had not received at least one of three shot series were 69% and 78% respectively.<sup>1</sup> The recommended age of vaccination is at age 11-12 years of age.

Statistics from APHA/NASPA State Immunization Laws/Rules (Jan. 2015) show that 23 states allow pharmacists to immunize in all ages for HPV. Pharmacists have in the last 20 years become the largest body of health professionals to make a significant impact on vaccination uptake. Given our training and accessibility, pharmacists can provide significant impact in the battle against this virus that may cause a number of cancers in both men and women.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 676.

<sup>1</sup> Corpuz, SA. Assessing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) & Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among University of Hawai'i at Manoa and University of Hawai'i at Hilo Freshmen. Office of Public Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa