



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health and Human Services
March 22, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

By
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DEAN
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HCR 157 / HR 107 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE INCIDENCES OF ADVERSE EFFECTS TO VACCINES IN HAWAII.

Chair Mizuno, 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). As designated lead for UH Hilo and on behalf of Interim Chancellor Marcia Sakai, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo opposes HCR 157 / HR 107.

Adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting is a complex and incomplete method to capture the side effects of drugs or vaccines. Institutions from hospitals, clinics, long term care and nursing homes, even when required, have difficulty in mandating reporting and rely on all medical staff to report. Whichever system is utilized, it still relies on an individual reporting the incident, and this inherently has flaws. Thus, data can often be incomplete or inaccurate. The accreditation body of these types of organizations, namely The Joint Commission, follows and requires reporting of ADRs, as well as requires intervention, monitoring and follow up in an acceptable quality assurance or improvement process. This type of oversight has improved ADR reporting and clinical intervention, however, the process continues with improvements and refinement.

For any ADR system to be accurate, all reported ADRs need direct assessment of the reaction, inventory of all medications and diseases, and laboratory parameters, if necessary, to ascertain direct causal relationship. These steps require tremendous human resources and expertise.

The college has great trust in DOH and its abilities but without first examining the means of reporting and assurance of quality reporting, outcomes from such a study could lead to inaccurate information and outcomes. In addition, the resolution does not specify how the data will be utilized and for what purpose.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HCR 157 / HR 107.