



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before
House Committee for Health
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By
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DEAN
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SB 514 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the Health 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. Student pharmacists 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 3rd 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. **Please note that all immunizing pharmacists and students pharmacists MUST be certified in BLS or Basic Life Support if they are immunizing. BLS allows for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) of adults, children and infants and also for intervention of choking. In addition, immediate access to epinephrine must be available at any site of vaccination.**

There is recommended monitoring post-administration of observation for 15 minutes due to an adverse reaction of fainting. Via the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) there has only been one report of fainting reported in Hawai'i since the Gardasil 9 vaccine was released. VAERS allows for self reporting, however, the CDC and FDA state limitations to the VAERS system in that since it is a self-reporting

system, there may be reporting bias and inconsistent data quality and completeness, and that report of an AE does not necessarily attribute causality to the vaccine. As well, the data base does not have a non-vaccinated portion for comparison.²

There is concern regarding the declining rate of 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.¹ Students who had not received at least one of three shot series were 69% and 78% respectively.¹ The recommended age of vaccination is at age 11-12 years of age.

A secondary issue that accompanies this age group is that due to cost of the vaccine, many physicians or provider offices will not carry the HPV vaccine, thus sending a 11-13 year old patient with a prescription to a pharmacy. Upon dispensing, the patient would need to return to the provider for administration. This may pose problems in the case of rural distances but more importantly that the proper transportation and storage of the HPV vaccine requires specific cold chain storage and verification of this cannot be assured once the vaccine is in the possession of the patient.

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 SB 514 SD1.

¹ 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

² <https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D8.jsessionid=A1FDBC9299B0602E211BFED8D5E1779F>