



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
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by

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and

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SB 304 – RELATING TO VACCINATIONS

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads 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 DKICP fully supports this bill that will allow registered pharmacists trained and certified in vaccine administration to administer vaccines to 11-17 year old patients. The bill also specifies requirements pharmacists must meet prior to administering any vaccine to a person between these ages.

Pertinent to this bill, the DKICP, via the certified American Pharmacists Association (APHA) course, provides training in immunization administration in the first professional year and all students become certified immunizers. Student pharmacists apply these skills in their experiential rotation courses and in numerous community health screening and immunization events held throughout the remaining three years of training. These activities are essential for our graduates to master the skill of immunizations and are more than proficient upon graduation. Additionally, our didactic curriculum addresses specialty areas of infectious diseases, geriatrics and pediatrics, communications and health management. The four-year professional Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum also emphasizes medication assessment and therapeutic recommendations via related laboratory tests and subjective/objective findings related to disease and drug therapy. In their second professional year students, take a pharmacy law class. A similar curriculum is implemented in all U.S. accredited (ACPE) colleges of pharmacy and provides consistent training for all graduating pharmacy students.

The DKICP has also provided training to practicing pharmacists through their training program via the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association. **Please note that all pharmacists and student pharmacists MUST be certified in BLS or Basic Life Support in order to immunize. BLS allows for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) of adults, children and infants. In addition, immediate access to epinephrine must be available at any site of vaccination.**

The Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) allows for self-reporting of any adverse reactions to vaccines. However, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns that self-reporting may impose limitation to this system, as there may be reporting bias, inconsistent and incomplete information and thus affect data quality. The VAERS system does not attribute causality of a vaccine for an Adverse Event, nor does the database have a non-vaccinated patient portion for comparison.¹

Statistics from the American Pharmacists Association (APHA) and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) show that 36 states allow pharmacists to immunize in all ages 11 and below; 21 states immunize in all ages.² 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 on diseases preventable through vaccination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 304.

¹ <https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D8;jsessionid=A1FDBC9299B0602E211BFED8D5E1779F>

² <https://www.pharmacist.com/article/types-vaccines-pharmacists-are-authorized-administer>