



February 20, 2018

To: The Honorable Roy Takumi
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama
Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee

Re: **Strong Support for HB1950 HD2**

Hrg: February 21, 2018 at 2pm at Capitol Room 329

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports HB1950 HD2 and recommends a revision of language to allow pharmacists to provide all recommended vaccines to adolescents 11-17 years of age. Currently, pharmacists can administer all recommended vaccines to adolescents 14-17 years of age and only human papillomavirus (HPV), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap), meningococcal, and influenza vaccines to adolescents 11-14 years of age. By allowing pharmacists to administer all recommended vaccines, including measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella, and hepatitis A vaccines, to persons 11-14, will improve the public's access to vaccines, thus increasing vaccination rates and in turn decreasing disease outbreaks.

HPHA supports pharmacists being able to administer vaccinations. Their ability to do so increases accessibility of vaccines to adolescents and adults.

Rationale for support of pharmacists providing vaccinations –

- To vaccinate, pharmacists face a rigorous curriculum and certification process.
- Pharmacists are trained to provide immunizations orally, by injection or by intranasal delivery.
- Pharmacy locations are ideal, especially in our rural communities; they provide increased access to vaccinations because of convenient evening and weekend times and flexible walk-in periods.
- Pharmacies can increase vaccination uptake in Hawaii.

HPHA supports expansion of immunization delivery to improve the overall health of persons in Hawaii and to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases through vaccination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawai'i Public Health Association