



**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
FROM THE HAWAII PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 676, HD1, RELATING TO HEALTH

February 23, 2017, 2:00 PM

To the Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Public Health Association fully supports HB676 HD1, which will allow registered pharmacists trained and certified in vaccine administration to administer the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine as well as other adolescent vaccines, including the meningococcal vaccine, influenza vaccine, and the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine to patients 11-14 years of age.

HPV is associated with multiple cancers, including anogenital cancers (cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, and anal), oropharyngeal cancer (tonsils and base of the tongue), and genital warts. The HPV vaccination can protect future generations from these cancers which affect 30,800 men and women in the U.S. each year (CDC, U.S. Cancer Statistics, 2006-2010).

Per the latest data from the National Immunization Survey – Teen (CDC, 2015), HPV vaccine series completion rates for girls aged 13–15 years in Hawaii are estimated to be 44% (CI+11) and for males aged 13–15 years, 29% (CI+10). These rates are well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 80% coverage levels for males and females aged 13–15 years, and they trail Hawaii's vaccination rates for other adolescent vaccines, namely Tdap and meningococcal vaccines.

In their 2014 report, the President's Cancer Panel estimated that 53,000 future cancer cases could be prevented if we as a nation were to achieve HPV vaccination rates of 80%. To realize this objective, the Panel recommended increasing the range of venues and providers for HPV vaccination, and specifically pointed to the need for state policies allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines to primary target populations for HPV vaccination; 11-12 year old boys and girls.

Lowering the age at which pharmacists are allowed to administer the HPV vaccine would expand access to this important vaccine because of the convenience and accessibility of pharmacies. With a pharmacy in nearly every community across the state, pharmacists can make a significant impact on our collective efforts to both educate parents and families about the HPV vaccine and increase HPV vaccination rates in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your support of adolescent health.