



March 17, 2019

To: Chair: John Mizuno  
Vice-Chair: Bertrand Kobayashi

Hrg: March 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Capitol Room 329

Re: Strong Support of SB203, Relating to Immunizations

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 SB203 that clarifies that pharmacists may perform certain vaccinations or immunizations and are required to maintain immunization records.

Our pharmacists have the capabilities and infrastructure to administer vaccines.

- Pharmacists must complete a rigorous immunization curriculum and certification process, as well as regular continuing education, including appropriate vaccination record keeping.
- Pharmacy locations are ideal for adolescents in our rural communities to access because of their convenient evening and weekend times and flexible walk-in periods.
- Pharmacies have the needed facilities to administer vaccines on-site.
- Pharmacists are in a position to increase vaccination rates in Hawai'i.

HPHA supports pharmacists being able to administer vaccinations. Their ability to do so increases accessibility of vaccines to adolescents and adults. HPHA is pleased to see immunizations included in their scope of practice. Recent outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in both Hawai'i and on the Continental U.S. were all vaccine-preventable. In Hawai'i, access to pharmacies played a major role in ensuring that many people were protected in a timely manner.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Public Health Association