

BOARD OF PHARMACY
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Date: February 27, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Exam Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Members Present: Alanna Isobe, Chairperson (“Chair”)
Sheri Tokumaru, Pharmacist
Brandon Rabang, Public Member
Mark Brown, Pharmacist
Catalina Cross, Public Member

Members Excused: Kent Kikuchi, Pharmacist

Staff Present: James Skizewski, Executive Officer (“EO” Skizewski)
Shari Wong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Dawn Lee, Secretary
Julie Halapaio, Secretary
Johnny Li, Tech Support Staff

Guests: Steven Aun, CVS
Stacy Pi , Kaiser Permanente
Jolyn Sanidan Prieto, Watanabe Ing LLP
Corrie Sanders, Hawaii Pharmacists Association (“HPHA”)
Rob Geddes, CVS

Call to Order: The Chair took a roll call of the Board members. After taking roll, quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chair’s Report: **Announcements**

Chair Isobe noted that she will be attending an item writing workshop in relation to national licensure exams. Mr. Brown noted he will also be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: **Approval of the Minutes of November 21, 2024.**

Chair Isobe deferred this item to the next meeting.

Executive Officer’s Report:

EO Skizewski noted that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (“NABP”) will be holding their annual meeting on May 13-16, 2025. The meeting will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Permitted Interaction Group's Proposal for Amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rule ("HAR") Title 16 Chapter 95

EO Skizewski noted the Board's permitted interaction group evaluating amendments to the HAR has proposed amendments to the HAR related to a pharmacy technician and pharmacy intern's ability to carry out remote processing.

Chair Isobe highlighted that the remote processing technician will be under the supervision of a pharmacist. Chair Isobe explained "remote processing" means the entering of an order or prescription into a computer from outside a pharmacy for a pharmacy licensed or permitted by the Board. Chair Isobe added that "remote supervision" means supervision of a nationally certified pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns via technology that, at a minimum, ensures a pharmacist is readily available to answer questions of the nationally certified pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern; and (2) verifies the work performed by the nationally certified pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern.

Mr. Brown asked, and Chair Isobe noted that the group did not indicate limits on where the remote work is being performed.

Mr. Brown noted that he feels the work being done by the remote technician should be done within the country.

Ms. Pi noted a requirement for the remote processing being done by a technician or intern, be done from a location within the country.

Ms. Cross asked, and Chair Isobe noted that all technicians will be national certified.

By motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Chair Isobe, it was voted on and unanimously approved to require all remote processing being performed, must be done within the United States.

By motion of Chair Isobe, and seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, it was unanimously approved to adopt the amendments to HAR Title 16, Chapter 95, to remote processing by pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns.

Mr. Rabang asked, and Chair Isobe noted that remote processing will be restricted to nationally certified technicians and interns. Chair Isobe noted that many other states currently allow this type of processing.

Ms. Yajima noted that HAR 16-95-86 related to the scope of practice should include immunizations. EO Skizewski noted that immunizations have been included in prior amendments.

By motion of Chair Isobe, and seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was unanimously approved to adopt the distributed amendments to HAR 16-95-86 related to remote supervision.

EO Skizewski highlighted the HAR revision processes includes multiple reviews by the State Deputy Attorney General, public hearings, and review by the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

EO Skizewski noted that HB 72 requires pharmacy technicians to be registered. Imposes a duty on pharmacists-in-charge to report violations conducted by registered pharmacy technicians. Specifies that supervising registered pharmacists are responsible for the actions of registered pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns. EO Skizewski noted the Board has been submitting testimony providing comments that recognize technicians that have received extensive on the job training.

Ms. Pi noted that this bill may contradict the amendments to the HAR that were recently adopted by the Board.

EO Skizewski suggested the Board request the removal of the reference to “direct” in relation to supervision and remove the reference to “physically present” in the bill.

Ms. Sanders noted that the association’s main priority is to regulate pharmacy technicians within the State.

Chair Isobe agreed in the need to request the removal of the reference to “direct” in relation to supervision and remove the reference to “physically present” in the bill. Chair Isobe highlighted that their adopted changes to the HAR are related to clerical and processing work.

Mr. Rabang noted that the future of technology and remote work must be considered.

Ms. Sanders asked, and Chair Isobe responded that the Board HAR clarifies supervision.

By motion of Chair Isobe, and seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was unanimously approved to adopt the distributed amendments to HAR 16-95-86 related to remote supervision.

Ms. Yajima asked, and EO Skizewski noted that pharmacy technicians will need to be registered and nationally certified to provide immunizations. Ms. Yajima added that a definition for supervision should be included.

Mr. Geddes noted that immediate supervision can still be provided through technology and is being carried out in other states.

Mr. Aun asked, and Chair Isobe noted that registered technician is defined in the bill.

By motion of Chair Isobe, and seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was unanimously approved to support HB 72 and request the removal of references to “direct” in relation to supervision and remove the reference to “physically present” in the bill.

Chair Isobe noted that the request is to align the statute with the Board HAR.

Senate Bill (“SB”) SB 1245 Relating to Pharmacists

EO Skizewski noted that SB 1245 mandates reimbursement for services provided by participating registered pharmacists practicing within their scope of practice by private and public health plans in the State beginning January 1, 2026. EO Skizewski noted that the Board had supported this initiative and will continue to testify in support.

HB 223 Relating to Pharmacy

EO Skizewski noted that HB 223 establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts. The Board has historically provided testimony supporting the intent but requests an oversight committee.

Ms. Sanders noted that HPHA supports an oversight committee but requests information from the Board on the type of personnel that should be on the committee.

EO Skizewski noted that the Board in the past has wanted assurances that the fund will benefit all pharmacists and not just university priorities.

Chair Isobe requests that all types of pharmacy spaces be considered such as retail, hospital, and care homes.

SB 1279 Relating to Pharmacists

EO Skizewski noted that SB 1279 authorizes a registered pharmacist under contract with a covered entity for purposes of the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to supervise via telehealth the filling or receipt of a prescription in certain circumstances. EO Skizewski noted that the Board has been providing comments related to concerns with a pilot project which included aspects of telepharmacy. Concerns included barriers to patient counseling and standard of care.

Chair Isobe noted that the vagueness of the bill causes concern and a lack of supervision of the support staff carrying out the dispensing and filling prescriptions.

Mr. Rabang noted the 340B program is meant to offset costs, the cost savings should be put toward hiring a full-time pharmacist.

Chair Isobe noted that the highest level of care is provided through a pharmacy with a pharmacist physically present. Chair Isobe highlighted the amount of medication errors in the pilot project which caused her concern.

By motion of Chair Isobe, and seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was unanimously approved to oppose SB 1279.

HB 712 Relating to Health

EO Skizewski noted that HB 712 prohibits drug manufacturers and wholesale distributors from restricting or denying access for pharmacies contracted with 340B covered entities to purchase 340B drugs at a discounted price under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program. HB 712 also imposes civil penalties for engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

HB 951 Relating to Prescription Drugs

EO Skizewski noted that HB 951 allows a patient seen in-person by another health care provider in the same medical group as the prescribing physician to be prescribed an opiate prescription for a three-day supply or less via telehealth.

Mr. Brown highlighted his concern on how this bill will possibly impact pharmacists.

EO Skizewski noted he could represent these concerns.

Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement, Narcotics Enforcement Division

No report provided.

Report from the Hawaii Pharmacists Association

Ms. Sanders noted that SB 1509 will include pharmacy benefit reform through language to prohibit spread pricing and the creation of a reimbursement rate floor. March 20, 2025, will be Pharmacy Advocacy Day at the capitol. April 12, 2025, will be HPHA's annual meeting. Ms. Sanders requested a Board presence at the annual meeting. HPHA has received grant funding to aide neighbor island pharmacists to attend the annual meeting.

Executive Session:

The Chair asked if there were any further questions from the Board. Seeing none, the Chair asked for a motion to move into Executive Session in accordance with HRS, 92-4 and 92-5(a) (1) and (4), "To consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for pharmacy licensure," and, "To consult with the board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities".

At 10:20 a.m., upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Cross, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session in accordance with HRS, 92-4 and 92-5(a) (1) and (4), "To consult with the board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities".

Mr. Rabang departed the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Kikuchi, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move out of executive session at 10:42 a.m.

Applications:

Ratification List

Upon motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Mr. Brown, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the ratification list.

Miscellaneous Permit

i. Taylors Pharmacy LLC

Upon motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the aforementioned application.

ii. Buy-Rite Drugs, INC.

Upon motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Mr. Brown, it was voted on and unanimously carried to deny the aforementioned application on the basis of Hawaii Revised Statute ("HRS) Section 461-21(a) (2) and (5) and HRS Section 436B-19(13).

iii. PRcp of CA, LLC

Chair Isobe deferred the aforementioned application to the next meeting.

iv. Link Pharmacy Corporation

Upon motion by Ms. Tokumaru, seconded by Chair Isobe, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the aforementioned application.

Chapter 91, HRS –
Adjudicatory Matters

The Chair called for a motion in regard to the following adjudicatory matters:

- a. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permit of **Express Scripts Inc., dba Express Scripts PHA 2024-20-L**; *Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order; Exhibit "1"*;
- b. In the Matter of the Pharmacy of **Longs Drugs Stores California, LLC dba Longs Drugs #9227 PHA 2022-1-L**; *Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order*;

Upon a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Mr. Brown, it was voted on and unanimously carried to accept the settlement agreements.

Next Meeting:

There being no further agenda items, The Chair announced the next scheduled meeting will be held on March 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Isobe adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Reviewed by:
/s/ Lorna Eugenio

Taken by:
/s/ James Skizewski

Lorna Eugenio
Secretary

James Skizewski
Executive Officer

LE:js

03/04/2024

- Minutes approved as is.
- Minutes approved with changes. See minutes of _____.