

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

The agenda for this meeting was filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, as required by § 92-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”).

Date: June 19, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

In-Person Location: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar

Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/8kH2anuJgzA>

Present: Alanna Isobe, Chairperson (“Chair”)
Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Sheri Tokumaru, Pharmacist
Catalina Cross, Public Member
Brandon Rabang, Public Member
Allen Shih, Pharmacist
Shari Wong, Esq. Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Christopher Fernandez, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Justin Ho, EO
Alan Yim, EO
Young-Im Wilson, Supervising Executive Officer
Julie Halapio, Secretary

Excused: Kent Kikuchi, Pharmacist

Guests: Jennifer Baumgartner
Megan
Steven Aun
Nick Ferreira
Gail Elliott
Rob Geddes -CVS Health
SLeal
Sara Watson

Call to Order: **9:05 a.m.** After a roll call confirming that Vice Chair Brown, Ms. Tokumaru, Ms. Cross, Mr. Rabang, and Mr. Shih were present and that the Board had met quorum, Chair Isobe brought the meeting to order.

Chair’s Report: Chair Isobe noted that she did not have items to report other than introducing new licensed member to the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Allen Shih. She

offered time to Mr. Shih to introduce himself.

Mr. Shih noted that he is the Pharmacy Director for Benioff Medica Center on Big Island for 5 years and stated that he knew Ms. Tokumaru from pharmacy school. And, lastly that he is excited to be on the Board.

Meeting
Minutes
Review &
Approval:

Chair Isobe asked if members had any objections or abstentions approving the meeting minutes of March 20, 2025. Hearing none asked for a motion.

A. March 20, 2025: Open Meeting

It was motioned by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Mr. Rabang, and unanimously carried by members present to approve the open meeting minutes as is.

Chapter 91, HRS,
Adjudicatory
Matters:

Chair Isobe called for recess to enter into Chapter 91.

RECESS 9:07 a.m.

RETURN FROM RECESS 9:19 a.m.

Chair Isobe informed the public that it had returned from recess and that the Board approved the following:

- A. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permit of WALGREENS.COM, INC., doing business as WALGREENS #02445; PHA 2025-3-L; Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order.
- B. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permit of RPC2B, LLC,; PHA 2024-26-L; Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order
- C. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permits of EMPOWER CLINIC SERVICES LLC, doing business as EMPOWER PHARMACY; PHA 2025-7-L; PHA 2025-8-L; Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order

Applications:

On a motion by Mr. Rabang, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at **9:17 a.m.** pursuant to HRS sections 92-5(a)(1) and 92-5(a)(4) to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional or vocational licenses cited in section 26-9 or both and to consult with the board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At **10:12 a.m.**, it was moved by Ms. Cross, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, and unanimously carried to return to open session.

A. Board Review of Applications for:

Pharmacist

1. Garrett Garber

On a motion by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Mr. Shih, and unanimously carried by members present, the Board voted to conditionally approve the application of Garrett Garber, pursuant to paragraph 461-21(a)(5); paragraph 461-21(a)(10); paragraph 436B-19(13), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); and paragraph 16-95-110(a)(15), Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR).

Miscellaneous Permit (PMP)

1. PRxP of CA LLC

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Vice Chair Brown, unanimously carried by members present, the Board voted to approve the application of PRxP of CA LLC for permit excluding Pharmacist Sanjay Patel.

Chair Isobe noted that Ms. Cross recused herself from the deliberation and vote.

2. Tabula Rasa Healthcare Group, Inc.

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Mr. Rabang, unanimously carried by members present, the Board voted to approve the application of Tabula Rasa Healthcare Group, Inc. for permit excluding Pharmacists Karen Cacace and Carol Sparks.

3. CareFirst Specialty Pharmacy LLC

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Vice Chair Brown, unanimously carried by members present, the Board voted to approve the application of CareFirst Specialty Pharmacy LLC.

B. Ratification List (see attached list)

Ratification of approved applications and permit changes will be voted on at next meeting.

Legislative
Session
Measures for
Review:

After Chair Isobe introduced the item, she opened the floor to EO Fernandez to report on the legislative session.

1. HB72-Relating to Pharmacy

EO Fernandez noted that HB72 the Pharmacy Technicians bill, was passed. The effective date is January 1st, 2026. The bill itself doesn't have a lot of language providing ministerial guidance.

For example, it doesn't indicate any kind of requirements for the registration. It does tie their registration to a pharmacist, and we have not yet worked out how that is going to look. But EO Fernandez noted that he and staff are working on that process, noting that they may reach out to board members and association members as they move forward to keep people updated, but also if he or staff have any questions about the matter too.

Vice Chair Brown asked if the technician will be able to work at more than one place, and the cost of the registration.

EO Fernandez replied that because PVL needs to take in applications and because they will need to store the registration on their database, there probably is going to be a fee. He added that he was still working on a fee amount, because really it really depends on what is needed in order to have somebody registered and maintained in the database. He added that the question about registration for multiple locations has not been answered yet, since the language of the bill is very minimal.

Chair Isobe asked if the registration is tied to the pharmacists.

EO Fernandez noted that the Board may need to ask for some kind of verification. So that would then mean, deductively speaking, that the pharmacist will be aware. He added that PVL was trying to minimize processes obviously for cost purposes, but at the same time it needed to ensure the public is safe.

Vice Chair Brown asked if that was something that the Board needed to do, or just the licensing branch?

EO Fernandez answered that he would follow the same kind of design as other applications for pharmacy and hopefully there will not be any issues with application forms generation.

Chair Isobe asked about the expiration of the registration.

EO Fernandez explained the bill did not indicate a renewal. The registration ends, and registrants have to re-register after 2 years. So that would probably coincide with pharmacy's renewals. He also noted if that was something the industry would like to change, change to a renewal, it would take passing legislation.

Chari Isobe did not think anyone would oppose a renewal.

EO Fernandez replied that it would be a lot easier for everyone, not just administratively.

Chair Isobe concluded that with the pharmacists and pharmacies renewing at the end of the year, completing the Pharmacy Technician

registration by the effective date is concerning.

2. SB1279 Relating to Pharmacists

EO Fernandez relayed the bill has died in session.

3. SB1245 Relating to Pharmacists

EO Fernandez noted that the bill mandates reimbursement of services provided by participating registered pharmacists, practicing within their scope of practice. The bill was passed, and he noted there were no administrative needs for this bill as it appeared to affect scope.

Hawaii Dept. of
Law
Enforcement,
Narcotics
Enforcement
Division:

Noting that there were no representatives from the Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement, Narcotics Enforcement Division present, Chair Isobe deferred the item.

Report from
The Hawaii
Pharmacists
Association

Chair Isobe invited Nicholas Ferreira, President-Elect for the Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPA) to provide their report.

Mr. Ferreira Expressed gratitude for the support from the pharmacy during the previous legislative session. He mentioned updates on the Pharmacy Technician registration and offered support for disseminating information. Mr. Ferreira informed the Board about recent elections and appointments within the organization, and highlighted the upcoming executive board retreat. He invited feedback and thanked the Board.

Requested
Response from
Don Parsa, MD

Chair Isobe stated the Board had received a letter from Dr. Don Parsa, the President of the Honolulu County Medical Society. The letter raised concerns about the legal and ethical authority of pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions issued by Hawaii licensed physicians. Specifically, the letter questioned the refusal to dispense medications such as ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, which are non-FDA approved, when prescribed for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Chair Isobe inquired whether there were any state laws or regulatory guidelines in Hawaii that governed a pharmacist's right to refuse to fill such prescriptions. She noted Dr. Parsa planned to present this information at the upcoming board of governors [of the Honolulu County Medical Society] meeting for discussion and clarification.

Vice Chair Brown responded, stating that he did not believe there were any rules or laws that required pharmacists to deny or fill prescriptions. He explained that every prescription undergoes a Drug Utilization Review (DUR) to determine if it is appropriate for the patient. If something appears to be outside the usual uses of a drug, they would typically contact the physician to understand the situation. He mentioned that pharmacy companies might have policies in place to avoid dispensing certain medications, sometimes due to stocking issues. He concluded that there was nothing that explicitly stated pharmacists could not refuse to fill a prescription.

Chair Isobe added that she did not think there was any law mandating pharmacists to fill prescriptions. She reiterated that there were no mandates in Hawaii Pharmacist laws requiring pharmacists to fill any prescription.

Vice Chair Brown shared his experience, noting that in Hawaii and other states, pharmacists could not keep a prescription if it was dispensed and they were not going to give it back. He mentioned that some places had issues with birth control prescriptions. He believed that pharmacists were generally okay to refuse to fill a prescription, if they deemed it necessary.

Chair Isobe emphasized the need for a reply to the letter, specifically asking whether there were any state laws or regulatory guidelines that governed a pharmacist's right to refuse. She considered the only relevant law was related to following FDA guidelines for dispensing drugs for legitimate medical use, which was more applicable to controlled substances.

DAG Wong inquired if there were any professional ethics or codes of conduct that addressed this issue.

Chair Isobe responded that the only relevant information she found was related to controlled substances, not general prescriptions.

Vice Chair Brown opined that mandating pharmacists to dispense everything is impractical because there are reasons why certain medications are not dispensed. He also noted that not all pharmacies carry every medication, and therefore just do not have it on hand.

Chair Isobe mentioned that she found information related to contraception and controlled substances.

DAG Wong asked if the information was from a national association.

Chair Isobe clarified that the information was from Hawaii regulations, specifically mentioning chapter 329, HRS, which addressed "corresponding liability" but this did not cover non-controlled substances. She reiterated that there was nothing specific for non-controlled substances in Hawaii that mandated pharmacists to fill prescriptions. She also noted that there was nothing that explicitly allowed pharmacists to refuse.

DAG Wong stated that the board could respond that it is not aware of any Hawaii laws or rules mandating pharmacists to fill prescriptions.

Chair Isobe asked if the board was okay with the proposed response and if it was sufficient to which members agreed.

EO Fernandez suggested that it was best to answer the question directly and allow for follow-up questions if needed.

Chair Isobe asked if there were any additional comments or concerns from the board or the public for this meeting.

There were none.

Next Meeting: August 21, 2025
9:00 a.m. HST
Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned by Chair
Isobe at 10:35 a.m.

Taken, Recorded by:

/s/ Christopher Fernandez
Christopher Fernandez
Executive Officer

CF:ct
08.14.25

[] Minutes approved as is.
[x] Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of 8/21/2025.