

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: January 29, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

In-Person Location: PVL Examination Room, 330
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, Third Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar

Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/InQSZpBmG70>

Present: Alanna Isobe, Chairperson (“Chair”)
Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Catalina Cross, Public Member
Sheri Tokumaru, Pharmacist
Allen Shih, Pharmacist
Shari Wong, Esq. Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Christopher Fernandez, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Cortnie Tanaka, Secretary
Breyanah Panzardi, Secretary

Excused: Brandon Rabang, Public Member

Guests: Cori
Rob Geddes, CVS Health
Stacy Pi, Kaiser Permanente
JGP
Lola Onipede, Empower Pharmacy
Kelly
RSG user
Amy Este
Brad Hamilton
dmasten
Sara Watson
Joe

Tonia Sorrell
Neal

Call to Order:

9:08 a.m. After a providing instruction on how to participate in the meeting and after a roll call confirming that Vice Chair Brown (remote and alone), Ms. Cross, Dr. Tokumaru, and Dr. Shih (remote and alone) were present and that the Board had met quorum, Chair Isobe brought the meeting to order. She also noted that Mr. Rabang was excused.

Report from
The Hawaii
Pharmacists
Association

Chair Isobe invited Dr. Corrie Sanders representing the Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA) to provide their report.

Dr. Sanders provided several updates from HPhA. She announced a free event for pharmacists designed to update them on legislative developments, which was scheduled to occur on February 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and was accessible virtually. The next association meeting was set for April 18th, 2026. A significant highlight was the upcoming visit from Michael Hogue, President of the American Pharmacist Association (APhA), who was slated to deliver an update from the national association and visit the University of Hawaii School of Pharmacy.

Regarding pharmacy technicians, Dr. Sanders noted a proposed bill to modify their working logistics was postponed for the current session due to its late submission. Instead, the focus would be on developing a well-organized and coordinated plan for the subsequent legislative session to address matters such as converting the registration to renewable every (2) years.

Dr. Sanders also outlined several legislative bills for the current legislative session:

HB 223 seeks to create a special fund for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, drawing inspiration from similar frameworks in nursing and medicine. The bill aims to generate accurate workforce data, ensure pharmacists' representation in major state initiatives (such as the world health transformation program), and fund a full-time advocate. She did not that the bill includes language to increase license fees for PVL licenses including: \$50.00 for pharmacists and \$100.00 for pharmacies, wholesalers, and other miscellaneous entities. She maintained that with these adjustments, Hawaii would remain a cost-effective state for pharmaceutical practice. Dr. Sanders suggested that oversight for this fund should be managed through the association's Constitution or bylaws rather than legislative statute, to prevent external appointments. She noted that HB 2161 and SB 2857 were companion bills to HB 223, featuring only minor

alterations to their introductions.

HB 1643 was introduced to safeguard independent pharmacies from overly burdensome audit practices. Key provisions of this bill include requiring a two-week written notice before an initial audit, restricting the audit period to two years in the past, and prohibiting audits during the first seven days of any calendar month, which are peak activity periods for pharmacies. Dr. Sanders also mentioned a separate bill that would authorize the insurance commissioner's office to establish an oversight body capable of imposing penalties for audit violations. She confirmed that a version of SB 324/SB 1579, mandating reimbursement for pharmacists' services, had already passed the previous year.

SB 2047 outlines requirements for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) concerning maximum allowable cost lists and reports. Dr. Sanders indicated the bill did not align with her expectations. Furthermore, she expressed support for the intent of SB 208, which proposed a state PBM for Medicaid to potentially save taxpayer money and enhance price transparency, though she questioned Med-QUEST's capacity to implement such a substantial change.

Lastly, she brought up HB 2225, a broader PBM-related bill that proposed establishing a reimbursement rate floor based on the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC) plus a Medicaid dispensing fee.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the Board, Chair Isobe moved to the next item thanking Dr. Sanders.

Meeting
Minutes
Review &
Approval

Chair Isobe asked if members had any corrections to the meeting minutes of December 19, 2025.

Ms. Cross noted an error in the heading of the minutes and requested a change to reflect that she was excused from that meeting.

After asking for any other changes, Chair Isobe asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended. The motion was made by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Dr. Shih, and unanimously carried by the Board members present.

Review of
Advisory
Committee
Member
Candidates:

Chair Isobe asked members if they had reviewed the information related to the list of Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) advisory committee members (ACM) for approval by the Board.

Vice Chair Brown asked if the list was all of the members of the committee, or only those up for renewal.

EO Fernandez noted that it was unclear as he had not received that info from RICO, but the list would renew or initially approved a member of the committee for (2) years.

Hearing no further questions or concerns, Chair Isobe called for a motion.

On a motion by Ms. Cross, Seconded by Dr. Tokumaru, the Board voted unanimously to approve the candidates for RICO ACM.

Pharmacy
Technician
Registration
& Vaccine
Authorization
Update:

Chair Isobe introduced EO Fernandez to update regarding pharmacy technician registration and vaccine authorization.

EO Fernandez reported that the registration process had stabilized, with applications now being handled under standard receipt and processing procedures. He noted that a few outlier cases remained, which were being addressed with the help of an additional Executive Officer to manage technical issues while balancing legislative duties. EO Fernandez confirmed that delegations approved by the board in the previous meeting were being utilized to reduce the number of applications requiring board review. He requested that any follow-up questions on applications be sent via email or phone rather than discussed during meetings.

Vice Chair Brown expressed concern about the wording on the pharmacy technician certificate, specifically noting that the bottom of the certificate stated it was “not valid” unless signed by EO Fernandez. Brown questioned whether the signature requirement was being met, as some certificates issued appeared to lack a physical signature.

EO Fernandez clarified that the certificates typically use an electronic signature authorized for use by clerks, rather than a manual signature. He acknowledged the concern and committed to reviewing the matter with the administrative team to determine if any updates or changes were necessary, and would report back before the next meeting.

When asked about application statistics, based on the information he had, EO Fernandez estimated approximately 2,000 applications had been processed, with most completed before the January 31 deadline and only a handful remaining due to minor issues.

The discussion concluded with EO Fernandez reminded that vaccine authorization questions can also be addressed through direct communication with the Board outside of meetings.

Legislative
Session:

After introducing the agenda item, Chair Isobe opened the discussion to the bills on the agenda. *(For the vote on bill positions, please see page 16)*

A. **Bills concerning Pharmacy and Pharmacists**

1. HB223 HD1-Relating to Pharmacy

Establishes the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Special Fund to support pharmacist workforce assessment and planning efforts. Establishes the pharmacist workforce assessment fee. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The Board noted that the bill was carried over from the previous session and had not yet been referred to a committee.

Dr. Sanders, representative of HPhA, explained that similar measures, HB2161 and SB2857, were introduced this session with minor language changes to clarify intent, but after filing of this meeting.

After discussion, the Board voted to support the intent of HB223 and similar bills, emphasizing the need for oversight and recommending that at least one Board of Pharmacy member serve on the proposed oversight committee.

2. HB561-Relating to Pharmacists

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.

The Board noted that HB561 and its companion were carried over from last year, and the board voted to maintain its prior testimony supporting the intent.

3. HB 1643-Relating to Pharmacy

Specifies a framework for the administration of audits of records of pharmacists and pharmacies.

Chair Isobe provided Dr. Sander's time to give testimony on HB1643.

Dr. Sanders explained that the bill was introduced to address concerns raised by independent pharmacy owners about burdensome and inconsistent audit practices. She noted that auditors often arrive without prior notice and request additional prescriptions until they find an error, creating a disruptive and stressful environment for pharmacy staff. The bill seeks to implement common-sense provisions modeled after Tennessee's audit laws, including:

- Two weeks' written notice before an initial audit.
- Limiting the audit period to no more than two years from the date of the claim.
- Prohibiting audits during the first seven days of the calendar month, which is typically the busiest time for pharmacies.
- Establishing deadlines for audit reports to ensure timely resolution.

Dr. Sanders emphasized that these measures aim to protect independent and affiliated pharmacies from excessive administrative burdens and allow them to focus on patient care.

Vice Chair Brown raised a question about penalties for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) or insurers who fail to comply with these provisions.

Dr. Sanders responded that another related bill would create an oversight entity within the Insurance Commissioner's office to enforce compliance and impose penalties, which could range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 per violation, similar to other states.

Chair Isobe highlighted that while the board typically avoids commenting on financial or reimbursement issues, this bill intersects with patient safety. She explained that audits consume significant time and resources, pulling pharmacists away from dispensing medications accurately and safely. The board agreed that the workload created by frequent audits could compromise patient safety, making this bill relevant to their purview.

Members discussed whether the bill should also limit the frequency of audits, as some pharmacies reportedly receive weekly audits from certain companies. Although HB1643 does not currently address

audit frequency, the board considered raising this concern in testimony.

Ultimately, the board voted to support the intent of HB1643, citing its potential to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and improve patient safety by allowing pharmacists to focus on clinical responsibilities rather than repetitive audit tasks. The board's position will emphasize the safety implications of excessive audits and encourage lawmakers to consider additional safeguards, such as limits on audit frequency.

4. SB324-Relating to Pharmacists

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.

After discussion, the Board voted to track this measure.

5. SB1279 HD1-Relating to Pharmacists

Authorizes a registered pharmacist under contract with a covered entity for purposes of the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to supervise the filling or receipt of a prescription via telehealth in certain circumstances. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The Board noted that SB1279 and its companion HB 561 were carried over from last year, and the board voted to maintain its prior testimony supporting the intent.

6. SB1579-Relating to Pharmacists

Mandates reimbursement for services provided by participating registered pharmacists practicing within their scope of practice by private and public health plans in the State after 7/1/2026.

The Board noted that SB1579 was carried over from last year, and the board voted to track the bill.

7. SB2047-Relating to Pharmacy Benefit Managers

Establishes requirements for pharmacy benefit managers that reimburse contracting pharmacies for drugs on a maximum allowable cost basis, including maximum allowable cost lists, and maximum allowable cost reports, and complaints process.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

B. **Bills concerning prescriptions and other subjects related to Pharmacy**

8. SB2208-Relating to Pharmacy Benefit Managers

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish or select and contract with a third-party administrator to serve as the State Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) who shall be responsible for administering all pharmacy benefits for medicaid beneficiaries enrolled with medicaid managed care organization. Requires medicaid managed care organizations to contract with and utilize the State PBM. Establishes requirements to procure the State PBM in addition to the requirements under state law governing purchases of health and human services. Establishes requirements and prohibitions for the contract to be used by the DHS when contracting with the state PBM. Requires the DHS to establish a single-preferred drug list to be used by the State PBM. Requires the DHS to consult with the Med-QUEST Healthcare Advisory Committee on the development, implementation, and oversight of the State PBM program. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

9. SB2038-Relating to Medication Labeling

Authorizes certain pregnant persons to receive abortion medication with a label that does not bear their name and other identifying information.

After discussion, the Board voted to support the intent but offer comments raising safety and logistical concerns, including verifying patient identity so that medication errors do not occur, and the technical challenges of removing identifying information from pharmacy labels which are printed with pre-programmed tools. Members agreed that these issues should be communicated during testimony.

10. SB1509 HD1-Relating to Prescription Drugs

Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on best practices for the regulation of pharmacy benefit managers and reduction in prescription drug costs for health insurance plan beneficiaries. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 12/31/2050. (HD1)

It was noted in the discussion that the bill was deferred last session due to the Legislative Reference Bureau being able to fulfill the requirements of the bill. The Board voted to track the measure.

11. SB1495 SD1-Relating to Hearing Aids

Exempts from the general excise tax, gross receipts received by a hospital, infirmary, medical clinic, health care facility, pharmacy, or a practitioner licensed to administer drugs to an individual, from the sale of hearing aids. Effective 12/31/2050. Sunsets 1/1/2027. (SD1)

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

12. HB205 HD1-Relating to Workers' Compensation

Establishes a payment rate not to exceed cost plus forty per cent for nonprescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, or nonlegend drugs for workers' compensation purposes, subject to certain conditions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

13. HB216-Relating to Prescription Drugs

Establishes requirements for the clinical review criteria and clinical practical guidelines used to establish step therapy protocols. Provides a process for a patient to request an exception to using step therapy protocols. Establishes insurance coverage requirements relating to the use of step therapy protocols and standards to appeal an adverse step therapy exception determination.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

14. HB872 HD1-Relating to Health

Authorizes health care practitioners to make undesignated prescriptions of single-use epinephrine for the purpose of stocking a supply at various types

of businesses and state and county government offices, including public schools. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

15. HB903 HD1-Relating to Student Health

Authorizes a school to maintain a stock supply of bronchodilators to be administered under certain conditions. Authorizes certain employees of a school and department personnel to administer certain medication in emergency situations, under certain conditions. Amends prescription drug labeling requirements to include certain information related to a school, if applicable. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

16. HB933 HD1-Relating to General Excise Tax Reductions

Reduces the general excise tax rate on the gross proceeds or gross income from the sale of groceries that are eligible under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), regardless of the means of purchase and the program eligibility of the purchaser. Reduces the general excise tax rate on the gross proceeds or income from the sale of nonprescription drugs. Requires DBEDT to conduct an economic cost-benefit analysis on the general excise tax reductions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

17. HB959-Relating to Taxation

Exempts the sale of groceries and nonprescription drugs from the general excise tax. Incrementally increases the general excise tax over four years, with the increased proceeds during certain fiscal years to be deposited into the general fund. Removes the state income tax on unemployment compensation benefits. Doubles the standard deduction for individuals earning less than \$100,000 and joint returns earning less than \$200,000. Repeals the incremental increases on standard income tax deduction amounts. Increases the minimum income threshold and exemption amount for the low-income household renters' income tax credit. Removes the tax liability for the first \$100,000 of individual income earned. Establishes the Maui Recovery Special Fund to be used for recovery programs related to the 2023 Maui wildfires. Appropriates funds. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2024.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

18. HB1539-Relating to Prescription Drugs

Repeals certain prohibitions on the imposition of fees, conditions, or requirements on community retail pharmacies that are not imposed on mail order pharmacies.

Chair Isobe introduced the topic by noting that HB1539 and its companion SB2283 are intended to address disparities in access and reimbursement between local pharmacies and mail-order services.

Vice Chair Brown emphasized that the primary concern is patient access and timely medication availability. He pointed out that patients often experience delays of three to four days when using mail-order services, whereas local pharmacies can provide medications immediately. This difference can have significant implications for patient safety and adherence to therapy, underscoring the importance of supporting in-person pharmacy services.

The Board agreed that while reimbursement issues fall outside its regulatory scope, the safety and clinical outcomes associated with timely access to medications are.

Chair Isobe suggested that the board's position should focus on ensuring patients have the option to receive care from local pharmacists, which promotes better counseling, quicker error resolution, and improved adherence.

Ultimately, the Board voted to support the intent of HB1539 and SB2283, emphasizing that the bills would help maintain patient safety by preserving access to in-person pharmacy services, and that the board supports measures that allow patients a choice of pharmacy, without added burdens.

19. HB1611-Relating to Taxation

Beginning 1/1/2027, establishes a yearly reduction in the general excise tax rate on groceries and nonprescription drugs on a tiered schedule, until 1/1/2034 and thereafter, when a full general excise tax exemption applies. Beginning 1/1/2028, provides a general excise tax exemption on the

wholesale sale of groceries and nonprescription drugs. Beginning 1/1/2027, prohibits the counties from imposing a county surcharge on groceries and nonprescription drugs.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

20. HB1648-Relating to Workers' Compensation

Prohibits health care providers from prescribing or dispensing nonprescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and nonlegend drugs for workers' compensation patients.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

21. HB1767-Relating to Opioid Antagonists

Beginning 1/1/2027, requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations that issue policies, contracts, plans, or agreements that provide prescription drug coverage to provide coverage for at least one generic opioid antagonist and device.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

22. SB226-Relating to Prescription Drugs

Establishes requirements for the clinical review criteria and clinical practical guidelines used to establish step therapy protocols. Provides a process for a patient to request an exception to using step therapy protocols. Establishes insurance coverage requirements relating to the use of step therapy protocols and standards to appeal an adverse step therapy exception determination.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

23. SB480-Relating to Health

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. Imposes civil penalties for engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

24. SB531-Relating to Education

Establishes provisions for the storage and maintenance of a stock supply of bronchodilators at schools. Requires the Department of Education to establish a protocol for the storage, usage, and administration of bronchodilators. Establishes provisions regarding the administration of certain medications by a volunteer at Department of Education schools. Clarifies labeling requirements for bronchodilator prescriptions issued to the Department of Education for a stock supply of bronchodilators.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

25. SB874-Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription, upon the request of a client, for any animal patient of a client with whom the veterinarian has established an existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Allows pharmacies licensed in the State to dispense medications prescribed by veterinarians. Authorizes the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

26. SB875-Relating to General excise Tax Reductions

Reduces the general excise tax rate on the gross proceeds or income from the sale of groceries that are eligible under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) or special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC), regardless of the means of purchase and the program eligibility of the purchaser. Reduces the general excise tax rate on the gross proceeds or income from the sale of nonprescription drugs. Requires DBEDT to conduct an economic cost-benefit analysis on the GET reductions.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

27. SB956-Relating to Prescription Drugs

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.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

28. SB1043 HD1-Relating to Taxation

Reduces the general excise tax rate imposed on nonprescription drugs by one half. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

29. SB2104-Relating to the General Excise Tax

Implements a phased repeal of the state general excise tax on the sale of groceries and nonprescription drugs in the State. Prohibits counties from establishing county surcharges on the state general excise tax on gross income or gross proceeds from the sale of groceries and nonprescription drugs in the State. Prohibition on county surcharges to be repealed on 12/31/2030.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

30. SB2106-Relating to Health

Prohibits the sale of nonprescription diet pills and dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building to any person under eighteen years of age. Requires retail establishments and delivery sellers to follow certain protocols regarding certain products to prevent access by minors to the restricted products.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

31. SB2283-Relating to Prescription Drugs

Repeals certain prohibitions on the imposition of fees, conditions, or requirements on community retail pharmacies that are not imposed on mail order pharmacies.

After discussion, the Board voted to support the intent of HB1539 and SB2283, emphasizing that the bills would help maintain patient safety by preserving access to in-person pharmacy services, and that the board supports measures that allow patients to choice of pharmacy, without added burdens. (see HB1539 for additional comments).

32. SB2610-Relating to Emergency Medication in Schools

Establishes provisions regarding the volunteered administration of certain medications by authorized persons at public schools, including requirements for parent authorization, administration instruction, and liability protections. Expands permitted emergency treatments to include epinephrine, inhalers, seizure rescue medication, glucagon, insulin, and blood-glucose monitoring.

After review, the Board voted to track this measure.

MEETING TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Fees:

Chair Isobe moved the agenda out of order to discuss fees before applications, noting that this was a priority item.

EO Fernandez explained that changing fees was a complex process because they were established under administrative rules, specifically HAR 16-53, which governs fees for all licensing boards and programs. He clarified that pharmacy fees are listed under HAR section 16-53-33, and any changes would require amending these rules across the entire chapter, not just for pharmacy.

DAG Wong stated that all boards' fees are consolidated under this chapter, which includes application fees, license fees, renewal fees, restoration fees, and compliance resolution fund contributions. To adjust fees, the board would need to request amendments through the Director and Administrator of Professional and Vocational Licensing (PVL).

Chair Isobe asked how this process differed from a legislative bill that proposed fee increases, and EO Fernandez explained that statutory changes would supersede administrative rules, whereas rule amendments require PVL's internal process and approval.

Chair Isobe noted that pharmacy fees had not been updated since 2016, and emphasized the need to act quickly.

EO Fernandez confirmed that the board could work on revising fees for pharmacy technicians and pharmacists. The Chair suggested increasing pharmacist fees while reducing technician fees to offset costs. She also raised concerns about the RICO compliance resolution fund fee, questioning its justification given the apparent lack of pharmacy-related investigations.

DAG Wong explained that the fund allocation was based on the number of licensees rather than the number of cases.

Chair Isobe proposed reviewing the compliance resolution fund and considering whether pharmacy technicians should be grouped with interns, who currently pay a lower fee. She expressed interest in collaborating with other boards to expedite amendments but acknowledged that waiting for all boards to agree would delay the process.

EO Fernandez agreed to work with the Chair Isobe to prepare a proposal for Board and PVL review.

The discussion concluded with consensus that the board would pursue fee adjustments for pharmacists and technicians, explore reducing the compliance resolution fund fee for technicians, and prepare recommendations before deadlines.

Applications:

On a motion by Dr. Shih, seconded by Ms. Cross, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at **10:40 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 **11:50 a.m.**, it was moved by Mr. Shih, seconded by Chair Isobe, and unanimously carried by the Board to return to open session.

MEETING TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Legislative
Session:

Chair Isobe explained to the public that the Board had not taken a motion on the positions the Board was taking on the bills as discussed during the agenda item: Legislative Session.

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Vice Chair Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the positions for bills #1-32 on the agenda as discussed and to have EO Fernandez draft the testimony. *(Please see the recorded positions and comments under each bill title above.)*

Applications:

Chair Isobe then returned to the agenda for the Board to vote on applications.

A. Board Review of Applications for:
Pharmacist

1. **Joshua Close**

Pharmacy Intern

2. **Suzanne Otani**

Pharmacy Technician

3. **Noli Diaz, Jr.**

Regarding the applications of Dr. Close, Ms. Otani, and Mr. Diaz above: On a motion by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Dr. Tokumaru, the Board voted to approve the applications unanimously.

4. **Miguel Cortes**

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Ms. Cross, the Board voted unanimously to conditionally approve Mr. Cortes. Mr. Cortes shall accept the following conditions prior to registration being issued:

(1) obtaining signed acknowledgments from current and future employers confirming awareness of his criminal history;

(2) limiting vaccination administration to patients aged 18 and older; and

(3) submitting an annual probation officer report until probation is completed.

Miscellaneous Permit (PMP)

5. **LT Pharmacy Buyer, LLC**

On a motion by Vice Chair Brown, seconded by Chair Isobe, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application excluding Pharmacist Ali Paydar.

6. **Clipper Distributing Company, LLC**

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Vice Chair Brown, the Board voted to defer the application for more information.

7. **VETOQUINOL USA, INC.**

8. **Melbourne Pharma, LLC**

On a motion by Chair Isobe, seconded by Dr. Shih, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications of VETQUINOL USA, INC., and Melbourne Pharma, LLC.

Next Meeting: February 19, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned by Chair Isobe at 11:57 p.m.

Taken, Recorded by:

/s/ Christopher Fernandez_____
Christopher Fernandez
Executive Officer