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April 1, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Bill 253 HD2 – Relating to Vaccinations - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Honorable Members of the Committee:

CVS Health/Longs Drugs would like to express our continued support for HB253 HD2. The version of the bill which passed the House expands the ability of specially trained Hawaii pharmacists and will allow them to better serve their community, particularly those patients of high-school age. Today, such pharmacists may only administer a prescribed influenza vaccine to patients between the ages of 14-17. HB 253 HD2 expands this authority to cover all vaccines for this same age group and pursuant to a valid prescription from the patient's primary care provider/medical home. In all cases, Hawaii law requires that pharmacists successfully complete a vaccination training program approved by the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE) before administering vaccines.

This bill will greatly expand the available venues where children between the ages of 14-17 can receive common vaccines required for such activities as school enrollment and is an appropriate expansion of the scope of work for the highly skilled health professionals that are pharmacists in Hawaii.

As one of the largest employers of licensed pharmacists in Hawaii, we thank you for your consideration of our comments and ask that the Committee vote yes on HB253 HD2.

CVS Health is deeply committed to Hawaii, employing approximately 2800 colleagues in our more than 60 pharmacy and MinuteClinic locations throughout the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawai'i. We proudly operate as the largest pharmacy chain in Hawaii, under our Longs Drugs banner and we also offer our patients and clients a wide range of comprehensive, integrated pharmacy and health operations statewide including: Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) services (CVS/caremark), Specialty Pharmacy (CVS/specialty), Mail-Order and Retail Pharmacy (CVS/pharmacy/Longs Drugs), Retail Health Clinics (CVS/minute clinic) and a distribution center.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric P. Douglas".

Eric P. Douglas