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March 18, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Honorable Members of the Committee:

CVS Health/Longs Drugs would like to express our strong support for HB253 HD2. HB253 HD2 expands the ability of Hawaii's pharmacists from being able to provide the influenza vaccine to patients between the ages of 14-17 pursuant to a valid prescription, to expanding this authority to all vaccines to this same age group, pursuant to a valid prescription from the patient's primary care provider or prescriber with whom the pharmacist has a collaborative practice agreement in place. In all cases the pharmacist must be properly trained before administering any vaccine.

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, and pass 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 black ink that reads "Eric P. Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Douglas