

SB 165: PHARMACIST PROVIDER STATUS

A BILL TO MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PHARMACY SERVICES



BACKGROUND

- Unlike other healthcare providers, pharmacists are not currently compensated under the medical benefit for clinical services
- The profession should be financially leveraged to continue providing healthcare services that are within our scope of practice
- Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare providers and need a reimbursement pathway in order to increase both quality and access to care

INTENT

- SB 165 would create a payment pathway under the **medical benefit of private and public health plans** for services provided by pharmacists **within scope of practice**
- This Act would allow for pharmacists to bill for clinical services in community practice and as part of integrated care teams across various settings
- Date of implementation: **January 1, 2024** following a required insurance audit

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN HAWAII

- The 2023 Regular Session of the Hawai'i State Legislature opened on January 18th for legislators to introduce new bills.
- Bills are voted on 3 times with committee hearings - and any amendments - occurring between each vote. This process occurs in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- If the bill passes in both chambers, the governor can sign the bill into law or veto the bill. A veto can be overturned by a 2/3 vote in both the House and Senate.

More information regarding the 2023 Regular Session can be found at the following links:

- [Hawai'i State Legislature homepage](#)
- [Reports to track current legislation](#)
- [2023 Legislative Calendar](#)
- [Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill?](#)

Keep an eye out for a companion bill to be introduced from the House this week

ACTION ITEMS

- Attend the HPhA Legislative Open forum on Thursday, January 26th at 6PM to have questions answered and voice any opinions
- Contact your local representatives to support the bill and advocate for reimbursed pharmacist services
 - Find your legislator at capitol.hawaii.gov/fyl
- Reach out to family, friends, and patients who may be willing to testify on behalf of pharmacist-driven care initiatives
 - Constituent voices speak loudly during the session and will be needed
 - Learn how to submit testimony at www.oha.org/testify-and-track-bills