



Hawaii Chapter

February 5, 2010

Hearing of SB2492 on 02-08-10 @ 2:45pm in conference room 016.

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, Senator David Ige, Chair

Re: **OPPOSE** – SB2492 – Amends the definition of "practice of pharmacy" by changing the age of persons to whom immunizations are administered from 18 to nine years of age with parental consent.

Dear Senator Ige:

Pediatricians are charged with proactively monitoring and intervening to optimize a child's health. A large component of that responsibility is disease prevention by immunization. Many vaccines require a series of doses for completion and the correct timing is imperative; new vaccines are constantly being added to the recommended immunization schedule; variations occur when temporary shortages occur; and appropriate immunization is a school entry requirement; therefore all pediatricians must have a system to ensure appropriate and timely immunization of their children.

Pediatricians also maximize the opportunity to intervene in children's health during these immunization office visits and must address issues of development, growth, parental concerns, school adjustments, drug abuse prevention, sexually transmitted disease prevention and many other child/adolescent health issues.

We have not heard of any physicians asking for immunizations to be administered outside of their office and upon more active inquiry have been told that childhood and adolescent immunizations need to be done by primary care physicians. Outside of the recent H1N1 vaccination shortage and mal-distribution problem, we have not heard of any access to immunization issues in Hawaii.

Immunizations techniques are more demanding for the pediatric population as many of these patients are not cooperative and their anatomy is different from the adult. Vaccine administration to the young population requires more training than adult vaccinations and needs to be continuously updated especially for those that may administer vaccines on an infrequent basis.

For these reasons of optimizing child health and safety, maintaining continuity of care and preventing fragmentation of vital records we are opposed to this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Galen YK Chock MD".

Galen YK Chock, MD

President, The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter

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