

LATE TESTIMONY

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Committee on Health

HCR 51, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ASSESS THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF REQUIRING CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATIONS FOR GIRLS BEFORE THEY ENTER THE SEVENTH GRADE

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health offers the following comments regarding this
2 measure.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department has an existing means to carry out this legislative request.
5 In 2007, the Department's Immunization Branch convened a working group to gather input from fifteen
6 community and department stakeholder organizations, in order to review and update the current school
7 immunization and examination requirements. This working group has been tasked with reviewing
8 current national recommendations as they pertain to immunizations and examination to determine if
9 evidence-based revisions to the current immunization and examination requirements for school
10 attendance in the State of Hawaii would be recommended. Stakeholder input is invaluable in helping
11 the Department understand the complex issues that may arise as a result of changes to these
12 requirements. If this measure is passed, the Department will bring the issue of an HPV 7th grade school
13 entry requirement before this body for analysis and discussion.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

mizuno1-Edgar

From: harry [docharry@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 9:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HCR 51 and HR 50

LATE TESTIMONY

Harry N. Yoshino, M.D.
Chair, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section

Committee on Health
Joshua B. Green, M.D., Chair

Committee on Human Services and Housing
Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Wed, Feb. 20, 9 AM
Conference Room 329

HCR 51 and HR 50: Requesting the Dept. of Health to assess the advantages and disadvantages of requiring cervical cancer vaccinations for girls before they enter the seventh grade.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section, supports HCR 51 and HR 50. We believe that this is a worthy endeavor because many young women could potentially benefit from cervical cancer vaccinations. This vaccination could not only prevent cervical cancer, but precancerous lesions as well.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of these bills.

Sincerely,
Harry N. Yoshino, M.D.
Chair, ACOG Hawaii Section

Testimony on HCR 51 / HR 50
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ASSESS THE ADVANTAGES AND
DISADVANTAGES OF REQUIRING CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATIONS FOR GIRLS BEFORE
THEY ENTER THE SEVENTH GRADE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Josh Green M.D., Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

My name is Sharon Ferguson-Quick and as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I'm providing written testimony on the measure requesting the Department of Health to assess the advantages and disadvantages of requiring cervical cancer vaccinations for girls before they enter the seventh grade. I support this measure in its goal to protect the health of women and girls.

Hawaii Revised Statute 367, establishing the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women in 1964, laid out as its primary purpose to ensure equality for women and girls in the State of Hawaii by acting as a catalyst for change through advocacy, education, collaboration and program development and research. The Commissioners have laid out a set of priorities to fulfill this mandate. Improving Women's Health is one of those priorities.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, every year in the United States (U.S.), about 6.2 million people get HPV. HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early 20s. For most of them the virus will clear up on its own with no injury to them or a sexual partner. But sometimes, HPV does not go away. Instead, it lingers (persists) and continues to change the cells on a woman's cervix. These cell changes (or "pre-cancers") can lead to cancer over time, if they are not treated. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2006, over 9,700 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 3,700 women will die from this cancer in the U.S.

The FDA has licensed the HPV vaccine as safe and effective. This vaccine has been tested in over 11,000 females (ages 9-26 years) around the world. The vaccine protects against four HPV types, which together cause 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts. Studies have found the vaccine to be almost 100% effective in preventing diseases caused by the four HPV types covered by the vaccine— including pre-cancers of the cervix, vulva and vagina, and genital warts.

With the vast quantities of information centered around this issue it is time for us to take an in-depth look and evaluate the potential benefits to women and girls in Hawaii.

I support this measure.

Sharon Ferguson-Quick
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
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