

February 20, 2008



Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair

The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

9:30 AM, Wednesday, February 21, 2008

State Capitol, Room 211

RE: SB3185 SD1-Relating to Cancer

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leinaala Ley and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB3185 SD1.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. strongly supports SB 3185 SD1 to appropriate funds for breast and cervical cancer screening through the Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

Breast and cervical cancer continue to pose a threat to the women of Hawaii. In our state, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women regardless of race or ethnicity. Approximately 800 cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in Hawaii this year and nearly 100 women will die from the disease. Another 61 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and approximately 12 will die. Most of these deaths occur among women who do not have access to, or do not seek, early detection screenings.

The good news is that when breast and cervical cancer screenings are available and utilized, early detection works. When breast cancer is diagnosed at its earliest stage, 98% of women survive five years or more. However, when the cancer is detected after it has spread to distant organs, the five year survival rate drops to only 23%. Similarly, pap tests detect pre-cancerous lesions that can be treated before they progress to cervical cancer, resulting in a nearly 100% survival rate. These statistics demonstrate that early detection of breast and cervical cancer is critical to saving lives and reducing the pain and suffering associated with these diseases. In addition, early detection can significantly reduce the healthcare costs associated with treating the disease in its advanced stages.

The Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is a necessary and effective safety net program that provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to women who are not otherwise able to afford or access early detection cancer screenings because of insurance status or other access barriers. Available through providers at eleven sites throughout the state, this program is helping to improve health outcomes for some of our state's most

American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc.

2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-1714

●Phone: (808) 595-7500 ●Fax: (808) 595-7502 ●24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 ●<http://www.cancer.org>

vulnerable women. Uninsured and underinsured women ages 50-64 who meet income criteria are eligible for screenings through this program. The American Cancer Society actively promotes this program to women in need who contact us about the availability of free breast or cervical cancer screening programs in their community.

Currently, Hawaii is one of only eleven states that does not allocate state funding to support this program. State funding for this program is critical to ensure that eligible women who qualify for this program are able to receive screenings and follow-up services and to ensure that providers are able to conduct outreach to hard to access populations which are the least likely to be receiving primary healthcare services live preventative screenings. Across the nation, eight states completely match federal funding and thirty three states provide between 1-99% of federal funding. Through additional funding, other states are enabling the program to begin screening women with mammography at age 40, in accordance with Society screening guidelines.

The American Cancer Society would be pleased to serve as a resource as opportunities to improve and expand the reach of this excellent program are explored. We urge you to pass this bill in order to increase the number of women who can access life-saving screenings through this program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leinaala Ley

(808)432-9149

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 21, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 3185 S.D. 1- RELATING TO CANCER**

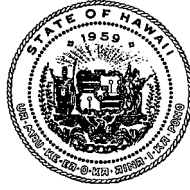
Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2008 9:30 a.m.
Senate Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate State general funds from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Health for cervical and breast cancer screening, education and outreach.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill but must oppose it as written. Section 2 of this bill amending chapter 346-59.2, HRS, by detailing the Department of Health requirements in section 346-59.2 (c) and (d), regarding screening, education and outreach for the Breast and Cervical Cancer program should not be a part of chapter 346 which pertains exclusively to DHS. We recommend placement of this language into a more appropriate chapter of the Hawaii Revised Statutes pertaining to the Department of Health (DOH).

DHS will continue to collaborate with the DOH to screen, educate and provide outreach services to women regarding the risks associated with breast and cervical cancer and provide the treatment services within the appropriation of State funds provided for this program in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

WRITTEN ONLY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB3185, RELATING TO CANCER

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

February 21, 2008, 9:30 AM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB3185, SD1 to provide
2 funding for breast and cervical cancer screening provided that it does not adversely affect the priorities
3 of the Executive Supplemental Budget. The following comments are offered regarding SB3185,SD1,
4 (SSCR2277): In provision (1) we recommend renaming the program as the "Comprehensive Breast and
5 Cervical Cancer Control Program"; and in (2) we recommend amending section 346-59.2, Hawaii
6 Revised Statutes, to add "support for" breast and cervical cancer screening, education, and outreach by
7 the Department of Health.

8 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriation out of general funds

9 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department Of Health recognizes the value of screening and early
10 detection. The Department of Health currently provides needed breast and cervical cancer early
11 detection services through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. The program is funded for
12 \$1.1 million through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
13 serves approximately 1,100 women annually.

14 The Department of Health, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides low-
15 income, uninsured, and underserved women access to timely, high-quality screening and diagnostic

1 services, to detect breast and cervical cancer at the earliest stages and to refer women with cancer or pre-
2 cancerous conditions to treatment. The program's priority population includes Native Hawaiian,
3 Filipino, and Pacific Island/Asian women. Women served by the program typically have never been
4 screened, are medically underserved, and have higher morbidity and mortality rates than other women.
5 Early detection of cancer greatly reduces treatment costs and increase survival rates.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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