

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**SCR56SD1, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO INCREASE
EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE CERVICAL
CANCER**

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

April 24, 2009, 8:45 AM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of S.C.R. 56 to expand
2 education about the causes, cures and prevention of cervical cancer. Additional resources will be needed
3 to expand education and develop new and innovative measures to disseminate information on the
4 prevention of cervical cancer.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** No appropriation amount has been identified.

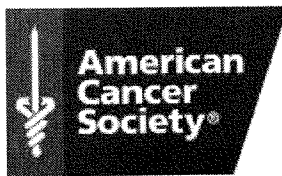
6 **Purpose and Justification:** Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a group of viruses that
7 includes more than 100 different types (of which 30 have been identified). Almost all (more than 99%)
8 cervical cancers are related to HPV. Of these, about 70% are caused by HPV types 16 or 18. About
9 500,000 pre-cancerous cell changes of the cervix, vagina, and vulva are diagnosed each year in the
10 United States, and over half are related to HPV 16 and 18. Most women who have a cervical HPV
11 infection do not know they are infected. The only way to be tested for HPV is through a DNA-based test
12 done on a sample obtained from the cervix. There is currently one FDA-approved test for the detection
13 of cervical HPV infection in women. There are no FDA-approved HPV tests for men. A Pap test can
14 reveal abnormal cell changes that may result from an HPV infection; however, it does not test for HPV.

1 The Pap test can find early cell changes in the cervix before these changes turn into cancer. If the Pap
2 test finds cell changes early enough, it can prevent cervical cancer.

3 In June 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Quadrivalent Human
4 Papillomavirus (Type 6, 11, 16, 18) Recombinant Vaccine (Gardasil, Merck & Co., Inc.) for vaccination
5 of females 9 to 26 years of age for prevention of diseases caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
6 Types 6, 11, 16, and 18. Gardasil is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer and other
7 diseases in females caused by certain types of genital human papillomavirus (HPV). The vaccine,
8 Gardasil, has an efficacy rate of 95-100% and protects against four HPV types, which are responsible
9 for 70% (types 16 & 18) of cervical cancers and 90% (types 6 & 11) of genital warts.

10 The Department of Health recognizes the importance of encouraging all women, especially those
11 among vulnerable populations, to get regular examinations and to emphasize the importance of
12 screening for early detection of cervical cancer. Also of importance is providing educational programs
13 with accurate and appropriate information on HPV and the link between HPV infection and cervical and
14 other cancers.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 22, 2009

Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto., Vice Chair

Hearing:

8:45 A.M., Friday, April 24, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**RE: SCR56, SD1, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
INCREASE EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT
AND ERADICATE CERVICAL CANCER.**

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee on Health. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of SCR56, which asks the Department of Health to “ramp up” its current efforts to expand education about the causes, cures and prevention of cervical cancer, and benefits of human papillomavirus vaccine.

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers that affect a woman's reproductive organs. Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cases of cervical cancer.

When exposed to HPV, a woman's immune system typically prevents the virus from doing harm. In a small group of women, however, the virus survives for years before it eventually converts some cells on the surface of the cervix into cancer cells. Half of cervical cancer cases occur in women between ages 35 and 55.

Thanks largely to Pap test screening, the death rate from cervical cancer has decreased greatly over the last 50 years. Still, every year more than 11,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer, and nearly 4,000 die of cervical cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Around the world, cervical cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer death in women.

On June 8, 2006, the first vaccine against HPV was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). On June 29, 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended the routine use of the HPV vaccine for girls 11-12 years of age and as early as nine at the discretion of doctors, and also suggested that girls aged 13 to 26 receive “catch up” vaccinations. ACIP further recommended that the HPV vaccine be covered under the federal Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. The recommendations of the ACIP were formally adopted by the American Cancer Society in 2007. ([American Cancer Society Guideline for Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccine Use to Prevent Cervical Cancer and its Precursors](#))

The Society also recommended that public health policy efforts were needed to ensure that HPV vaccine coverage was available for all females with limited access to health care services. The Society's guidelines also point out that the need for education was critical.

The American Cancer Society is a partner with the Department of Health's Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. We believe that more could be done in the area of education and outreach, especially in our disparate population groups.

We strongly support SCR56, SD1, and urge its passage. We would also note for the committee that the Society would be willing to participate with the Department of Health in their education efforts to educate the public about HPV vaccines.

Very truly yours,



George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: SCR 56 SD1 – Requesting the Department of Health to increase educational efforts to prevent and eradicate cervical cancer.

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 56 SD1 which requests the Department of Health to increase educational efforts to prevent and eradicate cervical cancer.

HMSA recognizes the importance of receiving appropriate screenings in order to detect illnesses in their early and treatable stages. We also recognize the importance of access to accurate information regarding the causes, cures, and prevention of these illnesses. SCR 56 SD1 would help increase the dissemination of information regarding cervical cancer to the public, which in turn could encourage all women to take precautionary measures to help prevent cervical cancer and get regular cervical screenings. As such, we respectfully request the committee to pass SCR 56 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations