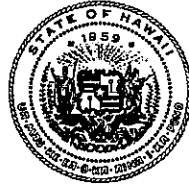


SCR 56

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

Cervical cancer; education and eradication



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**SCR56, 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**

March 30, 2009, 3:30 PM

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.



March 27, 2009

Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Hearing:

3:30 P.M., Monday, March 30, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

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

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Ige and Vice Chair Green, and members of the Committee on Health. My name is George Massengale and I am the Director of Government Relations with the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR56, which asked the Department of Health to ramp up its current efforts to expand education about the causes, cures, and prevention of cervical cancer.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., was founded in 1948, and is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. This mission is consistent with the Society's ambitious 2015 goals of slashing the cancer mortality rate by 50%, reducing the incidence of cancer by 25%, and improving the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors by reducing the pain and suffering that cancer causes.

Cervical cancer is a malignant cancer of the cervix uteri or cervical area. It may be present with vaginal bleeding but symptoms may be absent until the cancer is in its advanced stages. Treatment consists of surgery (including *local excision*) in early stages and chemotherapy and radiotherapy in advanced stages of the disease.

According to the US National Cancer Institute's 2005 Health Information National Trends survey, only 40% of American women surveyed had heard of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and only 20% had heard of its link to cervical cancer. In 2008 an estimated 3,870 women in the US will die of cervical cancer, and around 11,000 new cases are expected to be diagnosed. This year in Hawaii approximately 50 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer, one-third will die.

Pap smear screening can identify potentially precancerous changes. Treatment of high grade changes can prevent the development of cancer. In developed countries, the widespread use of cervical screening programs has reduced the incidence of invasive cervical cancer by 50% or more.

American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc., 2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1714
●Phone: (808) 595-7500 ●Fax: (808) 595-7502 ●24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 ●<http://www.cancer.org>

Human papillomavirus **HPV infection is a necessary factor in the development of nearly all cases of cervical cancer.** HPV vaccine, effective against the two strains of HPV that cause the most cervical cancer, has been licensed in the U.S. and the EU. These two HPV strains together are currently responsible for approximately 70% of all cervical cancers. Since the vaccine only covers some high-risk types, women should seek regular pap smear screening, even after vaccination.

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](#))

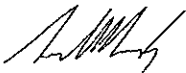
The Society also recommended that public health policy efforts were needed to ensure that HPV vaccine coverage was available for all females with limited access to health care services. In addition the Society's guidelines point out that the need for education about cervical cancer prevention utilizing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

In theory, if one could vaccinate all females during early adolescence with 1 of the 2 available HPV vaccines, as many as 70% of all cases of cervix cancer might be prevented. Considering the fact that worldwide cervix cancer causes approximately 250,000 deaths each year, the successful implementation of this strategy would have a major favorable impact on public health.

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, and urge its passage. We would also note for the committee that the Society would also be more than willing to assist the Department of Health in its education and outreach efforts.

Very truly yours,



George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations