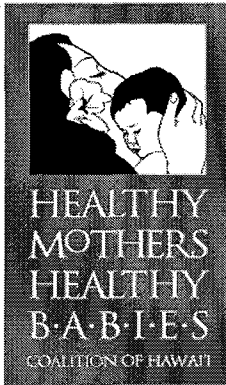


SB 2343



January 28, 2010

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Senator David Y. Ige., Vice Chair
Members, Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director
RE: **SB 2343, SD1 Relating to Insurance Coverage for Mammograms**
Hearing: Friday, January 29, 2010 at 2:45pm

Honorable Chairperson Baker, Vice Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee on Health

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in support of SB 2343, SD1 Relating to Insurance Coverage for Mammograms.**

Data indicates that 17 percent of breast cancer deaths occurred in women who were diagnosed in their 40s, and 22 percent occurred in women diagnosed in their 50s. Screening starting at 40 significantly prevents breast cancer deaths. The risk associated with delaying screening for women ages 40-49 far outweighs any benefit. Routine mammograms play an important role in women's health and should be accessible and affordable. Screening is only valuable if appropriate follow up is available. The record should include a name of the women's physician and the results of the mammogram should be forwarded to that physician.

We urge your support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

1500 South Beretania St, #308, Honolulu Hawaii 96826
phone # (808) 951-5805
e-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org

baker5 - Leo

From: Katie Reardon [kreardon@pphi.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:15 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 2343 Scheduled for Decision Making, 2/19 at 9:15 AM

Dear Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Ige, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii strongly supports SB 2343 Related to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms. We believe that regular breast cancer screenings and regular self-examinations are key to preventing breast cancer and protecting women's lives. We also believe that all women should have access to affordable health care, including mammograms.

According to the American Cancer Society, "The most recent data show us that approximately 17 percent of breast cancer deaths occurred in women who were diagnosed in their 40s, and 22 percent occurred in women diagnosed in their 50s. Breast cancer is a serious health problem facing adult women, and mammography is part of our solution beginning at age 40 for average risk women."

Due to the importance of routine mammograms and their important role in women's health, we think screening should be as accessible and affordable as possible. SB 2343 helps achieve that by requiring that health insurers provide full coverage of mammograms and prohibiting the requirement that women first receive a referral from their primary care physician. We support this measure and ask that you pass SB 2343, SD 1.

Thank you,

Katie Reardon
VP of Government & Public Affairs
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
1350 S.King Street, Ste. 309
Honolulu, HI 96814
808.589.1156 ext.226
fax: 808.589.1404



Hawai`i Women's Coalition

February 18, 2010

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David Ige, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair of the Hawai`i Women's Coalition

Re: S.B. 2343 Relating to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms
Hearing: Friday February 19, 2010 at 9:15 a.m., Conference Room 229

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for allowing me to testify today, in strong support of SB 2343 Relating to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms

The Hawai`i Women's Coalition was formed to further legislation that will help elevate the status of women and girls in Hawai`i. This bill is aimed at keeping a critical element of our healthcare system that has life-saving implications for us.

With the specter of reduced coverage for women's health care at the federal level, the passage of this bill has life-saving implications for the women and girls of Hawai`i.

There is plenty of scientific evidence to support the use of mammograms to uncover cancer or pre-cancerous conditions and most of us know that the earlier cancer is detected the better the long-term prognosis.

Although the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) in the November 2009 recommended increasing the age at which women should start receiving mammograms to 50 years old, these findings differ significantly from the guidelines established by the American Cancer Society (ACS). Their guidelines recommend that women receive annual mammograms starting at age 40 and that women perform regular self-examinations starting in their 20's.

After careful review of the USPSTF research, ACS has stated, "We specifically noted that the overall effectiveness of mammography increases with increasing age. But the limitations do not change the fact that breast cancer screening using mammography starting at age 40 saves lives." It seems that the organization whose focus is cancer prevention and treatment has the life-saving perspective not the monetary one.

I am sure that any physician who has successfully treated a breast cancer patient, any father whose daughter was saved by early detection, any family member whose loved one was saved by a mammogram would agree that obstacles to insurance coverage should be removed.

In addition I would like to offer some of the personal experiences of women with cancer detection and treatment. These stories can be found on the website: the pink ribbon shop.

From a woman named Nancy: "I am a 2 1/2 year breast cancer survivor. Luckily, my cancer was caught by mammogram in the very early stages. It was a stage one cancer. I had a lumpectomy and all the lymph nodes removed under the arm on that side. The nodes were all clear. I was able to get by without chemo, but I had 35 radiation treatments. God truly blessed me."

From a woman named Dana: "I am the granddaughter of breast cancer survivor. I asked if she had ever had a Mammogram, her reply was, NO, nothing hurts so why bother...two weeks after her test, she had a double mastectomy...She is 76 years old now and is doing great...It's amazing that so many women out there are worried about the discomfort of the test and therefore don't get the test done...I thank God that I was put in a position to do Mammography, otherwise my Grandma would not be here now. I feel someone was looking out for us when given that opportunity."

These are just two stories from countless women who survived cancer because of early detection of cancer with a mammogram. Many of them were in their thirties and some teenaged. You can also read stories of women who ignored a lump or were told they were too young, had no history in their family and for one reason or another put off the mammogram. The end result was usually more aggressive measures had to be taken to save their lives, and unfortunately some women paid the ultimate price.

Please don't let Hawaii's women and girls suffer and die as a result of restricted access to mammograms. Pass this bill out of committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

To: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

My name is Miki Maeda. As a woman over 40 years, I support this bill SB2343 which prohibits an insurer from requiring doctor's referral. Women my age have higher risk for breast cancer. It would be easier to take mammogram any time without doctor's referral.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify.

Eric Arquero

From: Jo-Ann M. Adams [jadamsesq@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:17 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: In Support of SB 2343, SD1

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010
TIME: 9:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

American Cancer Society (ACS) Guidelines recommend that women receive annual mammograms starting at age 40 and that women perform regular self-examinations starting in their 20's. Routine mammograms, self-examination, and early detection are essential to fighting breast cancer and protecting women's health.

Data shows that 17% of breast cancer deaths occurred in women who were diagnosed in their 40s, and 22% occurred in women diagnosed in their 50s. Starting screening at 40 significantly prevents breast cancer deaths.

Due to the importance of routine mammograms and their important role in women's health, screening should be as accessible and affordable as possible.

I support SB 2343 Relating to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms. This bill prohibits health insurers from requiring a referral for mammogram services for women age 40 and older and requires that insurers provide full coverage for one mammogram per year.

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.
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Seven Waterfront Plaza, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawaii
Mailing Address: PO Box 75472, Honolulu, HI 96836
Telephone: (808) 528-2100 Fax: (866) 370-0259

baker5 - Leo

From: Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:58 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2343 Mammograms

Aloha,

Attached testimony in support of SB 2343 is for Friday morning decision hearing.

February 18, 2010

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David Ige, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

Re: S.B. 2343 Relating to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms
Hearing: Friday February 19, 2010 at 9:15 a.m., Conference Room 229

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for allowing me to testify today, in strong support of SB 2343 Relating to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is in keeping with our mission that we support the full coverage of women's healthcare.

With the specter of reduced coverage for women's health care at the federal level, the passage of this bill has life-saving implications for the women and girls of Hawai'i.

There is plenty of scientific evidence to support the use of mammograms to uncover cancer or pre-cancerous conditions and most of us know that **the earlier cancer is detected the better the long-term prognosis.**

Although the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) in the November 2009 recommended increasing the age at which women should start receiving mammograms to 50 years old, these findings differ significantly from the guidelines established by the American Cancer Society (ACS). Their guidelines recommend that women receive annual mammograms starting at age 40 and that women perform regular self-examinations starting in their 20's.

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Mahalo and hi folks 

Ann S. Freed