

**SB 2343**



LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH  
DIRECTOR  
RONALD BOYER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2010

Friday, January 29, 2010  
2:45 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2343 – RELATING TO INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is J.P. Schmidt, State Insurance Commissioner, testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department takes no position on this bill because we do not have the medical expertise to know whether mammograms should not be subject to a physician referral. We note however that although mammograms are a demonstrated method of preventive care, there has been some debate regarding the costs and benefits when considering the dangers of radiation and the age of the patient.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.



*The Official Sponsor of Birthdays*

January 28, 2010

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

**Hearing:**

2:00 P.M. Friday, January 29, 2010  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

**RE: SB2343**

**Testimony in Support**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Committee on Health. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of SB2343, which would prohibit an insurer from requiring a doctor's referral for an annual mammogram for individuals over forty years of age.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific 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. Our mission also includes advocating for policies that eliminate barriers to various screen tests for cancers including mammography screening for breast cancer.

This year in Hawaii 870 women will hear three awful words, "you have cancer," and 140 of our wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters will lose this battle. Today mammography plays a central part in early detection of breast cancers because it can show changes in the breast up to two years before a patient or physician can feel them.

This past November, the United States Preventative Services Task Force recommended increasing the age at which women should start receiving mammograms from 40 years of age to 50. Needless to say, the American Cancer Society did not support this recommendation. The Society along with the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the American College of Radiology continue to recommend that women receive a screening mammography every year, beginning at age 40.**

We know from research that annual mammograms lead to the early detection of breast cancer, at a time when they are most curable and breast-conservation therapies are available. In addition, the National Cancer Institute encourages women who have had breast cancer and those who are at increased risk due to a genetic history of breast cancer to seek expert medical advice whether they should begin screening before age 40 and about the frequency of screening.

We further believe that eliminating the requirement that women obtain a physician referral for a screening mammogram will increase the mammogram screening and detection rate. In addition women who find something suspicious through self-examination will no longer have live with the anxiety of suspecting cancer while waiting to obtain a physician referral.

In reviewing the provision of SB2343, we have a valid concern regarding follow up. There is no provision or mechanism for follow up referral for women who have an abnormal mammogram. **We would suggest that language be inserted into the bill that would require screening facility obtain the name of the individual's physician of record, and inform the physician of the screening results. In situations in which there is no physician of record, the screening location facilitates an appropriate physician referral for follow up.**

Attached to our testimony is American Cancer Society's statement from Otis W. Brawley, M.D., chief medical officer, regarding mammography for women beginning at age 40.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support this measure, the passage of which will increase breast cancer screenings and save lives.

Sincerely,



George S. Massengale, JD  
Director of Government Relations

Testimony of  
John M. Kirimitsu  
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

January 29, 2010  
2:45 pm  
Conference Room 016

**Re: SB 2343 Relating to Insurance Coverage for Mammograms**

Chair Ige and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill regarding insurance coverage for mammograms.

**Kaiser Permanente supports this bill.**

It has been reported that breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States; 40,000 women die of breast cancer each year. Early detection of breast cancer through regular screening mammograms is commonly understood to be the most important determinant of survival.

The National Cancer Institute recommends that women over age 40 should have mammograms every 1 to 2 years. Likewise, most medical organizations, including the American Cancer Society have long recommended that all women older than 40 receive annual mammograms to detect abnormal cells. Meanwhile, Medicare, the federal health program for older and disabled Americans, covers annual mammograms starting at age 40.

In following national standards, Kaiser Permanente allows women over 40 years of age to "self-refer" for a screening mammogram at no charge. Women under the age of 40 are usually referred back to their primary care physician to discuss the need for a mammogram versus using the self-referral pathway.

There is a matter that needs to be clarified prior to passing this mandate:  
We urge the committee to define the "annual mammogram" in this bill as a mammogram screening, not to be confused with any other medically necessary testing for high risk cancer candidates.

Thank you for your consideration.



1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • [www.pphi.org](http://www.pphi.org) • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

January 29, 2010

**Testimony in Support: SB 2343**

To: Senator David Ige, Chair, and Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Health Committee

From: Katie Reardon, Vice President of Government & Public Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2343

Thank you for hearing my testimony in support of SB 2343, Relating to Insurance Coverage of Mammograms. Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPH) believes 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.

Part of providing good medical care is keeping up to date on medical research and evaluations. We are aware that in November 2009 the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) updated their recommendations regarding mammograms. USPSTF recommended increasing the age at which women should start receiving mammograms to 50 years old. They also suggested that women receive screening every two years. These findings differ significantly from the guidelines established by the American Cancer Society (ACS), which PPH currently follows.

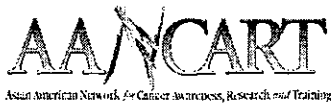
While we support all research geared toward improving the screening and treatment of breast cancer, PPH has not adopted the USPSTF recommendations. We will continue to follow the guidelines set out by the ACS: that women should receive annual mammograms starting at age 40 and should perform regular self-examinations starting in the 20's. We found ACS's review of the USPSTF research to be compelling. After reviewing the data used by USPSTF, they 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." ACS went on to say, "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.

**Honolulu Health Center**  
1350 S. King Street, Suite 310  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
808-589-1149

**Kailua Kona Health Center**  
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
808-329-8211

**Kahului (Maui) Health Center**  
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303  
Kahului, HI 96732  
808-871-1176  
(A Maui United Way Agency)



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2343

Senate Health Committee  
Jan. 29, 2:45 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capital  
Senate Conference Rm. 016

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator  
Reginald Ho, MD, Co-Principal Investigator  
Reuben Guerrero, MD, Clinical Director  
Miles Muraoka, PhD, Research Director  
Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Community Director  
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training  
A National Cancer Institute Community Network Program  
University of Hawai'i SEED Program  
2600 Campus Road QLCSS Rm. 413  
Honolulu, HI 96822

TO:

Senate Health Committee

Senator David Ige, Chair and Senator Joshua Green, MD, Vice Chair

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Will Espero, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Senator Fred Hemmings

RE: RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS

I am proud to strongly support this bill on behalf of the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART). My name is Reginald Ho, co-principal investigator with Amy Agbayani, PhD. AANCART is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute established to address cancer disparities among Asian Americans through research, education, training, and advocacy. I am an oncologist at Straub Clinic and Hospital. I also served as the first national president of Asian descent for the American Cancer Society.

It is important to **not** require a physician's referral in order for women over age 40 years to receive a mammogram. Access to mammograms is best achieved when a woman has the option to directly self refer or when a community navigator can facilitate making an appointment. This is especially critical for Hawai'i's Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic women who have been identified to be at greatest risk for dying from breast cancer due to the lower rates of early detection of breast cancer, and lower utilization rates for mammography. Factors related to barriers to mammography are complex. A physician referral requirement will only add to this.

Your passage of this bill is urgent, because unlike the rest of the country, for whom heart disease is the number one cause of death, for Asian women, cancer is the number one killer. Nationally and

locally, physician reminders have been found to be effective for most women to receive mammograms. But for first generation Filipino women in Hawai'i, that has not been the case. Given this, AANCART community-based participatory research focused on understanding why this is, and what can be done to increase mammograms. AANCART research results have revealed for the first time, the beginning of an upward trend toward increasing mammography rates among Filipino women.

It truly takes a whole village to ensure equal access to mammograms for vulnerable and underserved communities, even when breast cancer screening is covered in health insurance plans. This empowerment of Filipino women to make their own mammogram appointments or to be open to have trusted community navigators assist them, could not have been achieved without support of unprecedented breast cancer community outreach education initiatives through AANCART partnerships with Filipino media, community groups, including Filipino Business Women's Association, Filipino Catholic Clubs, Filipino Nurses Organization of Hawaii, Filipino Women's Civic Club, Nursing Advocates and Mentors Inc., Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii, and major partners such as the American Cancer Society, Hawai'i State Dept. of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Programs, NCI Cancer Information Service, Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Medical Services Association, Queen's Medical Center Women's Health Center, Hawai'i Medical Services Center, Kapi'olani Women's Health Center, and other stakeholders.

Lastly, this measure is important to pass, in order to safeguard and maximize access to mammograms for underserved and vulnerable groups that bear an uneven burden of breast cancer. In March, officials from the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Health Disparities and top national Asian cancer researchers will be convening for a national AANCART meeting in Honolulu. A site visit will be conducted with AANCART Hawai'i to assess progress in addressing breast cancer disparities in the Filipino community. Lessons learned will be shared nationally to save lives from breast cancer. Systems support with this legislation is key.

On behalf of AANCART and our many partners, I would like to thank you and your Senate and House colleagues in the state legislature for presenting AANCART with a certificate on the Senate floor during the 2008 legislative session to recognize the integral role in saving lives from breast cancer that growing civic engagement of community partnerships play to ensure access to mammograms. This distinction has aided in bridging the gap with trust and parity between health care providers and the community stakeholders to make a difference. Your deliberation and support to not require a physician's referral for women forty years and over to receive an annual mammogram is very important to address cancer disparities.

AANCART respectfully asks that you pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Very Sincerely,

Reginald Ho, MD  
Amy Agbayani, PhD  
Miles Muraoka, PhD  
Reuben Guerrero, MD  
Charlene Cuaresma, MPH





## OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 · Honolulu · Hawaii 96817

### Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential  
Carehome Administrators  
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural  
Foundation, Inc.  
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii  
Annac ti Batac  
Annac ti Caoayan 2002  
Annak ti Kailokuan iti  
America  
Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii  
Asingan Organization of  
Hawaii  
Badoc-Pinili Aid  
Association of Hawaii  
Banna Association of  
Hawaii  
Bannatiran Association of  
Hawaii  
Batangas Association of  
Hawaii  
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii  
Caballeros de Dimasalang  
Cabugao Sons & Daughters  
of Hawaii  
Candonians of Hawaii  
Caoayan ISAH  
Cavitenians of Hawaii  
Dingras Association of  
Hawaii  
Divine Word College  
Alumni Association  
FilAm Sports USA  
Fil American Citizens  
League  
Filipino Business Women's  
Club  
Filipino Nurses Organization  
of Hawaii  
Filipino Women's Civic  
Club  
GUMIL Hawaii  
GUMIL Oahu  
Hawaii Filipino Women's  
Club  
Hawaii Council of Bilingual  
Educators  
ILAH  
Ilocos Nortenians of  
America  
INCAT Alumni Association  
of Hawaii  
International Filipino  
Society of Hawaii  
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.  
La Union Circle of  
Hawaii  
Lingayen Gulf Club of  
Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2343  
Jan. 29, 2010, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 016  
Relating to Insurance Coverage for Mammograms

To: Senate Health Committee  
Sen. David Ige, Chair & Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Fred Hemmings, Sen.  
Clarence Nishihara

From: Danny Villaruz, President  
Oahu Filipino Community Council

Dear Senator Ige, Senator Green, and Senate Health Committee  
Members:

My name is Danny Villaruz, president of the Oahu Filipino  
Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that  
represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified  
vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

OFCC strongly supports SB 2343, which prohibits an insurer from  
requiring a doctor's referral for annual mammograms for  
covered individuals over forty years old.

This is an important action that is in keeping with OFCC's  
ongoing resolution to increase civic engagement to do  
something about cancer disparities. Filipinos, Native Hawaiians,  
Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and immigrants, more than any  
other groups in Hawai'i are at greater risk for poorer health  
outcomes when diagnosed with later stages of breast cancer.  
Requiring a physician referral will be one more barrier to  
overcome in order for women to get an annual mammogram.

I respectfully ask that you pass this bill. Thank you for the  
opportunity to advocate for access to mammograms for  
underserved women.

Sincerely,

Danny Villaruz  
President  
Oahu Filipino Community Council

### Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of  
Hawaii  
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of  
Hawaii  
Nueva Vizcaya Association of  
Hawaii  
Pasuquinos Association of  
Hawaii  
Philippine Cultural Foundation  
Philippine Nurses  
Association of Hawaii  
Piddig Association of Hawaii  
Sanchez Mira Association of  
Hawaii  
San Manuel Pangasinan  
Association of Hawaii  
San Nicolaneos USA  
San Nicolas Goodwill  
Foundation  
San Nicolas Teachers of  
Hawaii  
Santa Lucia Association of  
Hawaii  
Sarrat Association of Hawaii  
Sarrat International Inc.  
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni  
of Hawaii  
Solsona of Hawaii  
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii  
TPCP  
Kalihii Ballroom, Inc.  
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii  
Samar Leyte Association of  
Hawaii  
Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of  
Hawaii  
San Juan Association of  
Hawaii  
San Nicolas Nat. High  
Santa Marians of Hawaii  
School Alumni  
Santa Nicolas Nat. High  
School Bingao Annex  
Tagalog Association of Oahu  
United Bacarreneos of Hawaii  
United Group of Home  
Operators  
United Pangasinan of Hawaii  
United Urdaneta Club of  
Hawaii  
United Vintarinians of Hawaii  
Vigan Association of Hawaii

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

## Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2343

January 29, 2010 | 2:45 p.m. | Hawai'i State Capitol | Conference Room 016

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair & Senator Joshua Green, MD, Vice Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Will Espero, Senator Fred Hemmings,  
Senator Clarence Nishihara

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

### **RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS**

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

As a cancer survivor myself, I strongly support this bill, which prohibits an insurer from requiring a doctor's referral for annual mammograms for covered individuals over forty years old.

I participated in focus groups to discuss why some groups, even with health insurance coverage, still suffer a disproportionate cancer burden. Some reasons identified included fear that cancer is a "death sentence", myths and misconceptions about cancer, perceived pain of a mammogram, lack of transportation, cultural beliefs, class differences, language barriers, poor communication between doctors and patients, deference to authority figures like doctors, embarrassment to discuss issues of one's body, and modesty to disrobe in front of a stranger, especially when one is from an opposite gender.

In addition, when you factor in the high cost of health care during these depressed economic times, competing priorities for one's shrinking finances will make a physician's referral requirement for an annual breast cancer screening way beyond the reach of minority, poor, and immigrant women. It will also be an added obstacle for busy, working, middle class women.

As a reproductive justice issue, please help make mammograms a regular part of a woman's yearly health check up when she turns 40 years and over. Enactment of this bill will reduce the suffering and costs from diagnosing cancer at late stages. I appreciate this chance to share our community views with your Senate Health Committee.

Many thanks for serving Hawaii's people,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2343  
RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS

Senate Health Committee  
Jan. 29, 2:45 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capital, Senate Conference Rm. 016

Edna Alikpala  
98-1393 C Hinu Place  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Senator David Ige, Chair; Senator Joshua Green, MD, Vice Chair; and Senate Health Committee Members Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Will Espero, Senator Fred Hemmings, and Senator Clarence Nishihara,

As a breast cancer survivor, I am proud to strongly support this bill to prohibit an insurer from requiring a doctor's referral for annual mammograms for covered individuals over forty years old.

My name is Edna Alikpala. I serve as secretary of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. I also served as former president of the Filipino Women's Civic Club (FWCC). Both organizations have helped to increase mammograms among first generation Filipino women through collaborations with the National Cancer Institute's Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training. The Chamber sponsored the production of bus posters to raise awareness of the importance of annual mammograms. FWCC participated in AANCART's 100% Mammogram Challenge and devoted our signature Maria Clara scholarship ball to promote mammograms. As a result, members who have never had a mammogram or who were overdue for a mammogram, were able to make appointments directly, without a doctor's referral. This is key to enhancing, not restricting access to mammograms. We are proud to be a part of growing civic engagement to encourage first generation Filipino women to take an active role in making preventive health care a priority in their life style.

As one who has been blessed with the benefits of early detection of breast cancer, I humbly ask that you pass this bill. Access to mammograms is a reproductive justice issue, especially for women of color and underserved groups, who suffer from an uneven cancer burden. Please protect all women from an insurer's imposition of a doctor's referral requirement to get a mammogram. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Edna Alikpala  
Secretary, Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i  
Former President, Filipino Women's Civic Club



## **CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS**

**99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 96701**

Testimony in strong support of SB 2343  
**RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS**  
Senate Health Committee

Sen. David Ige, Chair & Sen. Joshua Green, MD, Vice Chair  
January 29, 2010, 2:45 pm, Senate Conference Room 016

Chair David Ige, Co-Chair Joshua Green, and Senate Health Committee  
Members:

My name is Jane Clement, president of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the umbrella of around 20 Visayan organizations in the State of Hawaii. COVO strongly supports Senate Bill 2343 relating to insurance coverage for mammograms.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death of women in the United States. It is a leading cause of death of women age 40 and over. In addition to the need to find a cure, prevention and early detection make the difference between life and death. A 2005 National Institute of Cancer study affirms that mammograms contributed to a pronounced drop in the number of breast cancer deaths. Other studies have found that mammograms done from age 40 on, help find tumors at their smallest and most treatable stage.

We believe that women should not be required to seek a doctor's referral prior to undergoing mammography which is a life-saving screening exam.

Please vote "yes" to help sustain the community's ability to help women 40 years and over to make an appointment for an annual mammogram without requiring a doctor's referral.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jane Clement  
President

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**From:** Mytes M [mytes808@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2010 4:06 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** senige@capitol.hawaii.gov; senchunokland@capitol.hawaii.gov;  
sengreen@capitol.hawaii.com; senbaker@capitol.hawaii.com; Sen. Clarence Nishihara;  
senhemmings@capitol.hawaii; ccuaresma@hawaiiantel.net; msm922@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Filipino Coalition for Solidarity Support Testimony on Senate Bill 2343

Testimony in strong support of SB 2343

RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS

Senate Health Committee

Sen. David Ige, Chair & Sen. Joshua Green, MD, Vice Chair

January 29, 2010

2:45 pm

Senate Conference Room 016

Chair David Ige, Co-Chair Joshua Green, and Senate Health Committee Members:

My name is Mila Medallon-Kaahanui, president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, a civil rights advocacy group founded in 1990. Equal access to healthcare services for Filipino and other minority women remains a key advocacy issue of our organization.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today on Senate Bill 2343, relating to insurance coverage for mammograms.

I also want to thank the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART) for their successful outreach and community education campaign, targeting Filipino women's civic and faith-based organizations, and providing them with the impetus to take up the 100% Mammogram Challenge.

AANCART's current efforts to reach out to the community is significant and comes at a time when Filipino women have the lowest mammogram utilization rates in Hawaii.

We all know the statistics: Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death of women in the United States. It is a leading cause of death of women age 40 and over. This year alone, more than 40,000 women in the U.S. will die from breast cancer, and more than 192,000 new cases will be discovered.

In addition to the need to find a cure, prevention and early detection make the difference between life and death. A 2005 National Institute of Cancer study affirms that mammograms contributed to a pronounced drop in the number of breast cancer deaths. Other studies have found that mammograms done from age 40 on, help find tumors at their smallest and most treatable stage.

Women should not be required to seek a doctor's referral prior to undergoing mammography which is a life-saving screening exam.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Please vote "yes" to help sustain the community's ability to help women 40 years and over to make an appointment for an annual mammogram without requiring a doctor's referral.

Sincerely,

Mila Medallon-Kaahanui

President

Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

P.O. Box 940

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Ph. 487-5275 (R) 397-1222 (C)

**From:** cornelia soberano [llbmaui@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2010 12:37 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** cuaresma1@hawaiiantel.net; eny; virgie; lucasbrunoiii@yahoo.com; kcompoc@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Annual mammo...require NO doctor referral

CORNELIA A. SOBERANO, J.D.  
Maui Filipino Working Group  
P.O. Box 2726  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Tel. (808) 298-3167

Dear Sen. Roz Baker, Sen. David Ige, Chair; Sen. Joshua Green, MD; and Senate Health Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the Maui Filipino Working Group, which advocates for progressive social change. The co-founders of this volunteer organization include Dr. Victoria Cantorna, Jeny Bissell, RN and Kim Compoc.

I am a 58-year old woman, a cancer survivor. My sister and I are blessed that a mammogram saved both of us from yet another life-threatening illness.

As a lawyer and community organizer, I am painfully aware of how my fellow Filipinas, whether they are recent immigrants or have lived in Hawaii for years, do not easily agree to having their mammograms taken. Beyond their modesty, they face multiple barriers--of language, lack of health care coverage, lack of funds for co-pay, drugs, etc, lack of transportation and the systemic lack of cultural sensitivity within the health care field.

To require a medical referral is to impose yet another barrier to already significant barriers as noted above--one that could lead to tragic consequences for more Filipino women and those of other disadvantaged communities.

I strongly urge you to decide in favor of saving lives, preventing deaths, for all of these reasons:

- Filipino women have the lowest mammogram rates in Hawaii.
- The American Cancer Society has identified Filipino, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian women to be at greatest risk for breast cancer in Hawaii.
- Mammograms can help detect breast cancer at an early stage, when the cancer is at its most treatable form.
- A local health insurer has found that even with physician reminders, follow up phone calls, reminder card mailings, and health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening, Filipino women were still the least likely to have had a mammogram, and were the most likely to be lost to follow up.
- Filipino women's civic groups and churches have taken up the 100% Mammogram Challenge with Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and

Training (AANCART) to use the trust of their personal networks to overcome barriers and provide support for women 40 years and over to get a mammogram.

- The danger of requiring a physician referral for a mammogram will thwart community efforts and a woman's ability to simply call and make an appointment for herself or to help someone else.
- The Hawaii State Dept. of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is a community resource that currently accepts self referrals for mammograms without a doctor's referral.
- This bill ensures access to annual mammograms for women forty years and over.

To make a doctor's referral be a pre-requisite to a life-saving mammogram will only heighten the already high incidence of breast cancer fatalities among Filipino women.

Sincerely,

Cornelia A. Soberano, J.D.  
Maui Filipino Working Group





# *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701  
E-mail: [bramosazon@aol.com](mailto:bramosazon@aol.com)

*Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA*  
President

*Tessie Oculito, RN*  
Vice President

*D Jun Obaldo, RN, BSN*  
Corresponding Secretary

*Au Curameng, RN, CM*  
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*Margie A. Berueda, RN, CM*  
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Assistant Treasurer

*Bong Curameng, CCHT*  
Auditor

*Michael G. Berueda, LPL*  
Computer Support

*Joe Magno*  
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## Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2343

January 29, 2:45 p.m., Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senate Health Committee  
Senator David Ige, Chair & Senator Joshua Green, MD, Vice Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Senator Will Espero,  
Senator Fred Hemmings, Senator Clarence Nishihara

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.  
Executive Director, Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii

RE: Relating to Insurance Coverage for Mammograms

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to offer strong support of this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people by training and mentoring foreign graduate nurses, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds, to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

It is important to prohibit an insurer from requiring a doctor's referral for annual mammograms for covered individuals over forty years old.

NAMI has been a lead partner with the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART) and the American Cancer Society to increase mammograms among first generation Filipino women. For over five years, we have led focus groups, helped to analyze data, provided community reviews on translated materials, helped to develop and conduct breast cancer forums, and more. We even piloted a 100 % Mammogram Challenge with AANCART among NAMI nurse leaders. We learned that for Filipino women who resist mammograms, more effective than physician referrals were family, social and professional ties to persuade and provide support for women to overcome barriers to get a mammogram.

Please do not allow insurers to impose a doctor's referral requirement for covered women to receive a mammogram. Access to mammograms is a reproductive justice issue. Please vote yes to help us empower our community to be proactive in their health care practices. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony by email.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc

Executive Director,  
Philippine Nurses  
Association Hawaii

## dige3 - Jamie

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2010 11:49 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** annfreed@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2343 on 1/29/2010 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** mammotestimony

Testimony for HTH 1/29/2010 2:45:00 PM SB2343

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ann S Freed  
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Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments: