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February 7, 2012

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Robert Herkes, Chair
Representative Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 325
February 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

HB 2035 HD1 – Relating to Health Insurance

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2035, HD 1, which prohibits health insurers from requiring a referral from a primary care provider for a mammogram if the person is over the age of forty. The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, 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.

Prevention and early detection are major factors in lessening the impact of cancer in our State. Breast cancer claims the lives of over one thousand women in Hawaii each year.¹ Early detection of breast cancer will save more lives. The earlier breast cancer can be treated, the higher likelihood that a patient will have a positive outcome. For these reasons, we support this measure.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide this testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory Chun".

Cory Chun
Government Relations Director

¹ See American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts and Figures 2011*, at page 5.
<<http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/content/@epidemiologysurveillance/documents/document/acspsc-029771.pdf>>



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012
2 p.m.**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2035, H.D. 1 – RELATING HEALTH INSURANCE.

**TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:**

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner, testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department takes no position on this bill which mandates mammograms for person 40 years of older without a referral. This is a medical matter outside our expertise.

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

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: HB 2035, HD1 – Relating to Health Insurance

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2035, HD1 which would allow covered individuals over 40 years of age to self-refer themselves for annual screening mammograms.

HMSA currently does not require a physician referral for mammograms. Consequently, this legislation is reflective of our current practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2035, HD1.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations



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February 7, 2012

Testimony in Support: HB 2035

To: Chair Robert Herkes, Vice Chair Ryan Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Katie Reardon Polidoro, Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2035

Thank you for hearing my testimony in support of HB 2035, Relating to Health Insurance. Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) 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.

According to the American Cancer Society, women should receive annual mammograms starting at age 40 and should perform regular self-examinations starting in the 20's. They explain, "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.¹"

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. HB 2035 helps achieve that by prohibiting health insurers from requiring that women first visit a primary care physician and receive a referral. We support this measure and ask that you pass HB 2035.

¹ *American Cancer Society Responds to Changes to USPSTF Mammography Guidelines*, American Cancer Society Press Release, 11/16/2009, <http://pressroom.cancer.org/index.php?s=43&item=201>