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STATE OF HAWAII
INSURANCE DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

GORDON I. ITO
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Friday, January 27, 2012
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2035 – RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, 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.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit insurers from requiring that a mammogram can only be obtained for persons over the age of forty with a physician referral. This is a medical matter that is outside our area of expertise.

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

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

January 27, 2012
9:00 am
Conference Room 329

Re: HB 2035 Relating to Health Insurance

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

Kaiser Permanente supports this bill.

In 2009, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii led the nation in mammography screenings for women, according to the National Committee on Quality Assurance's Quality Compass report. The 2009 Quality Compass report showed that, of all reporting health plans, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii had the highest breast cancer screening rate in the nation, with 85.1 percent of women age 42 to 69, or more than 25,100 patients, receiving their recommended mammograms. The national average was slightly over 72 out of 100.

Today, in continuing its commitment to early detection, Kaiser Permanente allows women over 40 years of age to "self-refer" for a screening mammogram at no charge. Therefore, no doctor's referral is necessary for these annual screening mammograms.

Thank you for your consideration.

HMSA



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January 27, 2012

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 2035 – Relating to Health Insurance

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

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

HMSA currently does not require a physician referral for mammograms. However, we respectfully request the Committee amends the language to specify that this measure refers to screening mammograms so that it is differentiated from diagnostic mammograms, which should be performed under the direction of a physician. A suggested draft HD1 is attached for consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark K. Oto'.

Mark K. Oto
Director
Government Relations

Attachment



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January 26, 2012

House Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 329
January 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

HB 2035 – Relating to Health Insurance

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2035, 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/acspc-029771.pdf>>



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January 26, 2012

Testimony in Support: HB 2035

To: Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and Members of the House Committee on Health

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>



To: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Health Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Health Vice Chair
Health Committee Members

Hrg: Friday, January 27, 2012 @ 9am

Re: **Relating to Tobacco—prohibiting self-service displays
Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1960**

By: Valerie Chang, JD, Executive Director
Hawaii COPD Coalition, www.hawaiicopd.org
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1550, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808)699-9839
copd.hawaii@yahoo.com

I thank you for this opportunity in strong support of HB 1960 prohibiting self-service displays of tobacco products. This is a promising practice to reduce youth access to tobacco and lower youth tobacco use rates.. This topic is very important to our organization, as we help those who suffer the awful ravages of long-term exposure to tobacco, those with emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, more commonly known as emphysema and chronic bronchitis. COPD is now the third leading cause of death in the US and second leading cause of disability. Over 30,000 people in Hawaii have already been diagnosed with COPD and it is estimated that at least 30,000 more people may suffer from COPD but remain undiagnosed. Many of these COPD patients were seduced by tobacco when they were very young and unable to quit the addiction for decades, causing irreparable harm. There are over \$55 million in COPD hospital charges in Hawaii each year. Our organization provides free breathing testing, resources, information and support for cessation and those with lung disease. In 2011, we have conducted over 1300 breathing tests (spirometries) in over 40 clinics, including 6 on the Big Island, 3 on Maui, 2 on Kauai, and 3 on Molokai.

In my recent trips to Canada, I have been struck by the very limited advertising allowed for tobacco products. Tobacco is often sold in a separate store with VERY PLAIN lettering—black letters on a white background just stating "Tobacco," with no pictures, no color and definitely not among items marketed to children. The packages of cigarettes also contained very graphic warning labels, like those FDA is proposing in the US.

Tobacco products are still the leading cause of preventable disease. We can stop this by making sure youth never start and tobacco users have every opportunity to quit. Addressing tobacco industry marketing is a critical step in our tobacco prevention and control efforts and prohibiting self-service displays of tobacco products is an important step in this.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify about this issue that is so vital to the health of Hawaii and our nation. This issue is very important to our state and our Hawaii COPD Coalition is very glad that this committee has taken a leadership role in addressing this important matter.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 11:56 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jenybissell@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2035 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2035

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeny Bissell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jenybissell@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments: