



**THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**LATE  
Testimony**

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The Honorable John Mizuno, HUS Chair  
The Honorable Jo Jordan, HUS Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, HLT Chair  
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, HLT Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Health

Hearing Date: February 2, 2012, 10:00am

**Testimony in support of HB 2115, Relating to Cancer.**

The Queen's Medical Center is in **strong support** of establishing a Hawaii colorectal cancer screening program to assist individuals with the detection and care of colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer, involving the colon or rectum, is second to lung cancer as a leading cause of cancer deaths, and equally common in men and women. In 2010, more than 142,000 new cases of colorectal cancers were diagnosed in the U.S., while more than 51,000 people died from the disease (ACS Cancer Facts and Figures 2011). In Hawaii, approximately 700 new cases of colorectal cancers are diagnosed each year, with approximately 200 deaths attributable to colorectal cancers (Hawaii Cancer Facts and Figures 2010).

Screening tests can prevent the occurrence of colorectal cancers by allowing the detection and removal of pre-cancerous lesions (Hawaii Cancer Facts and Figures 2010).

Survival from colorectal cancer is more than 90 percent when the cancer is diagnosed early, before it has extended beyond the intestinal wall. Yet, on average, only about 44 percent of the colorectal cancers diagnosed in Hawaii are at an early stage (Hawaii Cancer Facts and Figures 2010).

According to data from the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET), colorectal cancer mortality is significantly reduced with increased screening (an estimated 50 percent) and improved treatment (12 percent). The data also notes that reductions in risk factors such as smoking contribute to a third less colorectal cancer deaths.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Colorectal Cancer Control Program provide funding to 25 states and four tribes across the United States. As of January 2011, the Affordable Care Act mandates that Medicare beneficiaries and individuals with new health plans receive certain recommended preventive health screenings for free, including colorectal and breast cancer.

Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable. However, disparities, such as education, poverty, and lack of insurance can affect access to screening and treatment. We have a successful model, an established infrastructure, and an existing funding mechanism with the Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) and screening tests that work. There is a great opportunity now to reach more people who can be screened and treated if a positive reading is found in a timely manner, with the ultimate goal of saving lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.