



# LATE TESTIMONY

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February 7, 2011

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

**Hearing:**

February 8, 2011, 9:30 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 329

**RE: HB 602 – Relating to Breast and Cancer Screening**

**Testimony in Strong Support**

Chair Yamane and Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee on Health, my name is George Massengale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific, Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony and comments in strong support of HB602 which appropriates state funds for breast and cervical cancer screening through the Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

For over 60 years, the American Cancer Society in Hawaii has led the fight against breast cancer which is the most common cancer among women regardless of race or ethnicity.

When breast cancer is diagnosed at its earliest stage, survival rates are excellent. However, the survival rate falls to 78 percent when the cancer is detected at a regional stage and 23 percent when the cancer is detected at a late stage. Similarly, pap tests detect pre-cancerous lesions that can be treated before they progress to cervical cancer, resulting in a nearly 100 percent survival rate. As these statistics clearly show, early detection of breast and cervical cancer is critical to saving lives.

The Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is a vital and effective safety net that provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings for women who are unable to afford or access these life-saving screenings because of insurance status or other barriers. Available through providers at nine sites throughout the state, this program is helping to improve health outcomes for some of our state's most vulnerable women. The American Cancer Society actively promotes this program to women in need who contact us about the availability of free breast or cervical cancer screening programs in their community.

State funding for breast and cervical cancer screening is critical to ensure that women who qualify are able to receive screenings and follow-up services. In Hawaii, uninsured and underinsured women ages 50-64 who meet income criteria are eligible for screenings through this program.

American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc., 2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1714  
•Phone: (808) 595-7500 •Fax: (808) 595-7502 •24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 •<http://www.cancer.org>

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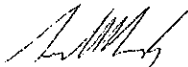
With additional funding, other states are finding ways to screen women beginning at age 40, in accordance with Society screening guidelines.

As always the American Cancer Society would be pleased to serve as a resource when opportunities to improve and expand the reach of this vital program are explored.

We urge you to pass HB602 so more women can access life-saving screenings through the Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony here today.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale, JD  
Director of Government Relations