



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF BIRTHDAYS.™

March 28, 2012

House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 308
March 29, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

SB 2084, SD1 – Relating to Health Insurance Testimony of Cory Chun, Director of Government Relations

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2084, SD1, 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.

This measure also focuses on the individual, by allowing a person to be proactive in their own health care. For most individuals who fall into the high risk category, a primary care physician would routinely schedule a referral for a mammogram screening. There may be instances, however, through no fault of either party, where the referral is not made. In those cases, a referral requirement by a health insurer serves a barrier to receive a possible life-saving cancer assessment.

For these reasons, we support this measure. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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>>

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

March 29, 2012
10:00 am
Conference Room 308

Re: SB 2084, SD1, Relating to Health Insurance

Chair, Vice Chair, 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



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 2084, SD1 – Relating to Health Insurance

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2084, SD1 which would allow covered individuals over 40 years of age to self-refer themselves for annual mammograms.

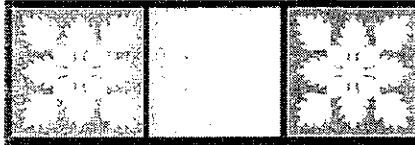
HMSA believes that routine screening mammograms are integral for the early detection and treatment of breast cancer and access should be unimpeded. Consequently, we do not require a physician referral for screening mammograms.

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

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 2084 SD1 – Relating to Health Insurance

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Jackson and I am chair of the Public Policy Committee of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP). HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of eight (8) member organizations: AlohaCare, HMAA, HMSA, HWMG, Kaiser Permanente, MDX Hawai'i, UHA, and UnitedHealthcare. Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. HAHP is also active participants in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2084 SD1 which would allow covered individuals over the age of forty to self-refer for annual screening mammograms.

HAHP understands the importance of preventative care, and believes that by eliminating the requirement of a doctor's referral for screening purposes more women will obtain mammograms. Research has shown that early detection is key in the treatment of breast cancer. HAHP also fully supports the provision that a doctor's referral shall be required for any necessary follow-up services in order to best facilitate care.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2084 SD1 today.

Sincerely,

Richard Jackson
Chair, Public Policy Committee