

TESTIMONY

SB2423

HTH Committee Hearing 1/27/2012

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 27, 2012

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2423 - RELATING TO CANCER**

Hearing: Friday, January 27, 2012; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a colorectal cancer screening program to assist individuals with the detection and care of colorectal cancer and appropriate funds for the program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services supports the intent and understands the importance of colorectal cancer screening to detect and provide treatment. Given the fragile state of Hawaii's economy, however, we are unable to support the appropriation.

The Department agrees that outreach and education about colorectal cancer and early detection are important factors in treating the disease. Screening and treatment for colorectal cancer is a covered benefit under both the QUEST and QExA plans if detected. The health plans also emphasize preventive care and encourage screenings as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HMSA



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January 27, 2012

The Honorable Josh Green M.D., Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

Re: SB 2423 – Relating to Cancer

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2423, which establishes the Hawaii colorectal cancer screening program.

Studies have shown that the most efficient way of detecting precancerous growths are through screening tests and that early detection is key. HMSA supports the establishment of a program to facilitate early detection of colorectal cancer and support those uninsured individuals who have been diagnosed. Such detection programs are essential for those individuals who otherwise may not be tested.

We support the objective of SB 2423 and believe that its passage will help to improve survival rates of colorectal cancer. We kindly ask for your consideration in passing SB 2423. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations

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TESTIMONY
SB2423

HTH Committee Hearing 1/27/2012

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January 26, 2012

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Joshua Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hearing:
State Capitol Room 229
January 27, 2012, 2:45 p.m.

SB 2423 – Relating to Cancer

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2423, which appropriates state funds for colon and colorectal cancer treatment.

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. This measure establishes a program to screen for cancers currently not covered by other state cancer screening programs. This program, in conjunction with the breast and cervical cancer program, has the potential to detect cancer which could lead to positive treatment outcomes for those diagnosed with the disease. For these reasons, we encourage this committee to move the bill forward.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cory Chun".

Cory Chun
Government Relations Director