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Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – 8:30 am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Re: HCR 149/HR 107 – Requesting The Auditor To Assess The Social And Financial Effects Of Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Medical Services For Women With Dense Breast Tissue.

Testimony in Support

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA. I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-government employer. It is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I write in support of HCR 149/HR 107 which requests the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of requiring health insurance coverage for medical services for women with dense breast tissue.

With the passage of House Bill No. 373/Act 5 last session, health care facilities that perform mammography examinations are required to provide a report and notification to each patient who is categorized as having dense breast tissue beginning as of January 1, 2014. Nationwide approximately 50% of women are classified as having dense breast tissue, and for these women, mammography alone may not be an adequate cancer screening procedure. Women who receive the required notification may elect to have further additional screening. Further screening is a useful tool to detect cancer in early stages. However, the additional screening is not covered by health insurance. Therefore, we believe the Auditor's study is the vital first step toward health insurance coverage for the further screening women found to have dense breast tissue require. It is hoped this will further advance early cancer detection for women.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Testimony of Phyllis Dendle

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

LATE

March 19, 2014
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HCR149/HR107 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MEDICAL SERVICES FOR WOMEN WITH DENSE BREAST TISSUE

Chair Belatti and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR149/HR107 requesting an auditor study regarding coverage for additional screening for dense breast tissue.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this resolution.

It's a good idea for women to pay attention to the health of their breasts. Getting mammograms as recommended by their health care provider is very important. Mammography continues to advance and smaller cancers are found regularly. In fact, at Kaiser Permanente our statistics show that for women whose cancer is detected and treated promptly, 90 percent are still alive 5 years later. Detection comes most frequently through mammography.

I'm personally counting on those great odds. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in June of 2012 through a routine screening mammogram. When something suspicious was spotted I underwent additional screening and ultimately treatment. This is how it

works for all mammograms. Having dense breast tissue doesn't mean a woman automatically needs more tests. Only if there is some reason to suspect that there is an anomaly is it necessary to have additional screening. At Kaiser, if you need the screening, you get it.

KPHI supports not only determining the social and financial impact of mandating additional screening for women with dense breast tissue but also the actual medical value of providing additional screening. It is important to assure that additional mandates actually provide real benefits to the individuals and the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE**HCR149**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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