

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network 2370 Nu`uanu Avenue Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817 808.432.9149 www.acscan.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means Senator David Ige, Chair Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Hearing: February 20, 2014; 9:00 a.m.

## SB 2045 SD1 – RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PILOT PROGRAM

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of SB 2045 SD1, which establishes the colorectal cancer screening pilot project.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Colorectal cancer, often referred to as colon cancer, affects about 900 people in Hawaii each year. Colorectal cancer is a dangerous and deadly cancer because precancerous polyps and early-stage colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. This means that someone could have polyps or colorectal cancer and not know it. That is why having a screening test is so important.

The purpose of this measure is to establish a program to raise awareness for colorectal cancer for uninsured and underinsured individuals. Raising awareness would serve to increase screening rates by encouraging more individuals to take advantage of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.



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DATE:Thursday, February 20, 2014TIME:9:00 a.m.PLACE:Conference Room 211

TO: <u>COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS</u> Senator David Y. Ige, Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Walton Shim, MD, President
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Ron Keinitz, DO, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

RE: SB 2045 RELATING TO COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PILOT PROGRAM

In Support.

Chair & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure.

Cancer of the colon and rectum, also known as colorectal cancer, is the second leading killer in the United States among cancers affecting both men and women.

The HMA agrees with the legislature that a screening program will increase detections of any cancer at an early state, which in turn improves chances for survival and decreases mortality rates.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Officers President - Walton Shim, MD President-Elect – Robert Sloan Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President – Stephen Kemble, MD Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO

## <u>SB2045</u>

Submitted on: 2/18/2014 Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	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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