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Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Roz Baker, Vice Chair

Hearing: February 3, 2014; 1:30 p.m.

SB 2045 – 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 testimony in support of SB S2045, 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 screen for colorectal cancer for uninsured and underinsured individuals. Instead of creating a completely new program, this pilot program closely resembles the existing breast and cervical cancer screening program as a model.

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



S.B. 2045

RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PILOT PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Health

February 3, 2014; 1:30 p.m.

The Queen's Medical Center supports S.B. 2045 for the purpose of establishing a two-year Hawaii colorectal cancer screening pilot program using the Hawaii comprehensive breast and cervical cancer control program as a model, and appropriating funds for the pilot program.

It is our understanding that this program would not fund screening or treatment for individuals who have insurance (as a means of circumventing their cost share obligation). This program would also not serve individuals who have coverage for colorectal-cancer screening or treatment through mandated individual or group hospital and medical service contracts. However, similar to the initial start up of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, this program will enhance Department of Health colorectal cancer education efforts and provide screening only, not treatment, for uninsured individuals who do not have and/or are not eligible for medical/health insurance), such as Compact of Free Association migrants and Green Card holders who lack the required 5-year residency criteria for Medicaid.

According to the Affordable Care Act, colorectal cancer screening (like breast and cervical cancer screening) are to be afforded to everyone as of 2014. However, it is anticipated there will continue to be gap groups of uninsured who still lack access to colorectal cancer screenings, just as there continues to be gap groups of uninsured who lack access to breast and cervical cancer screenings despite the existing Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act of 1990 and the Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) established in 1997.

In October 2011, Queen's Colon Screening Program was started to increase colon cancer awareness and decrease the wait-time for a colonoscopy screening. Since its inception, over 1,500 eligible patients have been screened with an alarming polyp (cancerous growth) detection rate of 72% and adenoma (non-cancer, but can become cancer) detection rate of 41%.

Screening tests can prevent the occurrence of colorectal cancers by allowing the detection and removal of pre-cancerous lesions (Hawaii Cancer Facts and Figures 2010). Survival from colorectal cancer is more than 90 percent when the cancer is diagnosed early, before it has extended beyond the intestinal wall. Trend data from the National Cancer Institute also supports the need for increased screening to reduce colon cancer mortality.

The latest U.S. Surgeon General's Report, released January 11, 2014, states there is sufficient evidence to infer a causal relationship between smoking and colorectal adenomatous polyps and colorectal cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hawaii's smoking-attributable mortality rate ranks 2nd among the states.

Therefore, a two-year colorectal cancer screening pilot program will enable the Department of Health and its chronic disease partners to demonstrate the feasibility and sustainability of a Hawaii Colorectal Cancer Control Program that is tailored after its successful BCCCP model and utilizes the existing infrastructure and funding mechanism.

The Queen's Medical Center supports this measure and asks for your full support in establishing a two-year Hawaii colorectal cancer screening pilot program to fight colorectal cancer, a cancer that IS preventable, treatable, and beatable.

From: [Francis & Beverly](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT OF SB2045
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 10:25:35 AM

Please support SB 2045 for Colorectal Screening.

Without this screening, I would not have my mother in my life for many more years as her surgery was a success.

Therefore, this colorectal screening is very important to save lives which would otherwise be cut short.

Thank you,

Beverly C. Wong
3522 Ala Aloalo Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Janice Bond](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SB 2045
Date: Friday, January 31, 2014 3:24:44 PM

Aloha, Senators Baker, English, Espero, Galuteria, Green, Ige, Nishihara, Taniguchi, and Wakai

I am writing you concerning SB 2045: RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PILOT PROGRAM.

I understand this will establish a Hawaii colorectal cancer screening awareness pilot program using the Hawaii comprehensive breast and cervical cancer control program as a model and will appropriate funds for the first year of the pilot program.

I am in favor of this bill and support it. My father Tooru Yamane, an HGEA member and clerk to the Kauai County Council before he retired, had colon cancer before he passed. I understand that this screening is very important as my son who is going to be 51 should be concerned enough to be screened soon.

Please support SB 2045.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Bond
Kauai ACS CAN member

From: [Eliza Yeung](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: in support on SB 2045
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:14:28 AM

I fully support SB 2045 for colorectal screening. My father was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. After enduring surgery and extensive chemotherapy, my father is alive. Currently, he is on oral chemotherapy and me and my family could not imagine life without him. The colorectal screening helped save his life.

Sincerely,
Eliza Yeung
1133 Waimanu St. # 511
Honolulu, HI 96814

cell 226-1025

From: [Jenny Hausler](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: In support on SB 2045
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 9:59:23 PM

I fully support SB 2045 for Colorectal Screening. My first husband, Glenn Shimada passed away from colon cancer at age 32 and my hope is that no one else ever dies from this terrible disease.

Colorectal screening will save lives.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Hausler
1429 Kuloko Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

Ph. 808 455-3242
jenhausler@hotmail.com

From: pepperchan@aol.com
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: In Support on SB 2045
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 10:42:22 PM

I fully support SB 2045 for Colorectal Screening. My friends husband, Glenn Shimada passed away from colon cancer at age 32 and my hope is that no one else ever dies from this terrible disease.

Colorectal screening will save lives.

Sincerely,

Cora Cho

From: [Mark Vasconcellos](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Date: Friday, January 31, 2014 2:25:10 PM

Aloha

As a VERY BLESSED CANCER SURVIVOR OF 9 YEARS of male breast/non *Hodgkin's* lymphoma cancers. I hope in my life time we can find a cure to end all cancers.

Therefore, I Just wanted to let all of our elected government officials know. That I'm in support for SB 2447 (BCCP) & SB 2045 (Colorectal cancer Screening).

Thank you for your time and listening.

Mahalo,
Mark Vasconcellos.