



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

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

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

SB 2447 – RELATING TO CANCER

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 2447, which appropriates state funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

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.

Hawaii's Breast and Cervical Cancer program provides free pap tests to women aged 50 to 64 and mammograms to women aged 50 to 64 who are uninsured, underinsured, and have income below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. From 2007-2012, Hawaii's program detected 75 invasive breast cancers and 33 cervical cancers and precancerous lesions.

In 2010, 58% of all women in Hawaii were screened for breast cancer and 84% were screened for cervical cancer. Those rates dropped significantly among uninsured women who were screened at 28% and 62% respectively.

The Affordable Care Act will provide women with greater access to preventive cancer screenings and treatment. However, gaps will still remain for women who will continue to be uninsured or underinsured due to affordability, literacy, and language related barriers. It is estimated that over 10,985 Hawaii women will continue to lack access to cervical cancer screenings, and 4,639 women will lack access to breast cancer screenings in 2014. Maintaining adequate funding will preserve a critical safety net for thousands of Hawaii women who will continue to lack access to essential screening, diagnostic and treatment services.



S.B. 2447, RELATING TO CANCER
Senate Committee on Health
February 3, 2014; 1:30 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for S.B. 2447, Relating to Cancer. This measure will provide funding to continue the valuable services of screening, education, providing treatment as necessary, and conducting outreach on breast and cervical cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Hawai'i, accounting for about one-third of all cancer cases among Hawai'i's females. Breast cancer is also the most common cancer reported at The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), accounting for about one-fifth (18%) of all cancer cases.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women today. While there is no prevention for breast cancer, a breast health program of regular mammograms and clinical breast examinations are critical to early detection and improved survival. When diagnosed at its earliest stage, breast cancer survival is excellent at 98 percent. On the other end, cervical cancer CAN be prevented and found early through regular screening. For these reasons, it is important for Hawai'i to have a viable Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

The Hawai'i Department of Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides critical screening and early detection services to women at high risk, uninsured/underinsured, rarely or never screened, and with higher morbidity and mortality rates than other women. Since 1997, the program has served 9,400 women through community-based, contracted providers across the State. QMC's Women's Health Center is one of the 12 BCCCP provider sites, with one dedicated staff member who provides community outreach to and patient navigation for women who are eligible for the program. Maintaining funding will preserve a critical safety net for thousands of women, who will remain uninsured or underinsured and will lack access to essential screening, diagnostic and treatment services.

QMC recognizes, promotes and educates its staff, patients, families and the community about the importance of screening, early detection and prevention of all cancers, including breast and cervical cancers. Since 2006, QMC's BCCCP has screened a total of 640 eligible women, 207 (32%) being Native Hawaiian and 29 (4%) diagnosed with breast cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, uninsured and underinsured women have lower screening rates for mammograms and pap tests, resulting in a great risk of being diagnosed at a later, more advanced, state of disease; thereby decreasing the chance of survival and increasing the cost of medical care and treatment to community-based health systems and ultimately the State.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, implementation of health care reform through the Affordable Care Act will increase access to breast and cervical cancer screening services for many low-income,

underserved women through expanded insurance coverage and the elimination of cost-sharing. But even with adequate health insurance, many women will still face substantial barriers to obtaining breast and cervical cancer screening due to geographic isolation, limited health literacy or self-efficacy, lack of provider recommendation, inconvenient times to access services, and language barriers.

QMC is committed to providing quality cancer care, especially to our disparate communities (e.g. Native Hawaiians, Filipinos and Pacific Islanders). QMC’s Women’s Health Center and Queen Emma Clinic targets the medically underserved, uninsured, and underinsured, which are predominantly Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Pacific Islander. The majority of women who receive care through QMC’s Women’s Health Center and Queen Emma Clinic typically have never been screened.

Early detection of cancer greatly reduces treatment costs and increases survival rates. The Queen’s Medical Center strongly supports the Hawai’i Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program and asks for your support through appropriated funding to reach more women, particularly those experiencing a disproportionate cancer burden.

Months	Goal	Total	Native Hawaiian	Total Diagnosed with Breast Cancer
July 2006 to June 2007	50	21	5	1
July 2007 to June 2008	50	0	0	0
July 2008 to June 2009	50	52	20	5
July 2009 to June 2010	50	95	40	4
July 2010 to June 2011	70	130	37	6
July 2011 to June 2012	140	151	48	2
July 2012 to June 2013	140	143	45	8
July 2013 to Dec 2013	70	48	12	3

From: [Jenny Hausler](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: In Support of SB2447
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 9:53:44 PM

I fully support SB 2447 for the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Program. My sister, Lucy Brower Molloy, died 7 years ago at age 63 from breast cancer that may not have ended her life if earlier screening was available.

Please help save unnecessary deaths from cancer.

Sincerely,

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

Ph. 808 455-3242
jenhausler@hotmail.com

From: [Francis & Beverly](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT OF SB 2447
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 10:30:26 AM

Please support SB 2447 for the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Program.

Your support is so crucial to make sure that many of our loved ones may live longer as everyone of us have family and friends who have suffered or lost their lives.

Thank you,

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

From: [Janice Bond](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SB2447
Date: Friday, January 31, 2014 3:29:54 PM

Aloha, Senators BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, SOLOMON, TOKUDA, Kidani, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen,

I am writing to you concerning SM 2447, Comprehensive Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program which appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Health for the comprehensive breast and cervical cancer control program. I highly SUPPORT this bill as I have had many family and friends who have been inflicted with breast and cervical cancer.

Mahalo,

Janice S. Bond
Kauai ACS CAN member