

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB2447,SD1, RELATING TO CANCER

**Comments of David Sakamoto, MD, MBA
Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration**

**February 20, 2014
9:00 AM, Room 211**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments and defers to the priorities
2 of the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriated out of the general revenues, the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof
4 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program
5 (BCCCP) to the DOH.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** We respectfully request the appropriation be specific for screening,
7 education, and outreach services; therefore, an amendment is suggested to Section 1, page 2, lines 15 to
8 19 to read as follows:

9 "The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the screening, education, and outreach
10 services of the comprehensive breast and cervical cancer control program."

11 The DOH recognizes the value of screening and early detection. The Department currently
12 provides critical breast and cervical cancer early detection services through the BCCCP. The program is
13 federally funded for \$1.1 million through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control
14 and Prevention (CDC) and serves approximately 1,200 women annually. Since 1997, the program has
15 screened 9,400 women and detected 247 incidents of breast cancer and 144 pre-cancerous conditions

1 and cancers of the cervix. CDC estimates that funded states are serving 14.3% of eligible women age
2 40-64 years for breast cancer and 8.7% of eligible women for cervical cancer through the national
3 program, which reflects the importance and need of these lifesaving screening, diagnosis, and treatment
4 services. The DOH, BCCCP provides low-income, uninsured, and underserved women access to timely,
5 high quality screening and diagnostic services to detect breast and cervical cancer at the earliest stages
6 and refer women with cancer or pre-cancerous conditions to treatment through the Department of
7 Human Services (DHS), Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program. The BCCCP's priority
8 population includes Native Hawaiian, Filipino and other Asian/Pacific Islander women. Women served
9 by the program are typically rarely or have never been screened, are medically underserved, and have
10 higher morbidity and mortality rates than other women. Early detection of cancer greatly reduces
11 treatment costs and increases survival rates.

12 These funds will screen women who are uninsured and do not qualify for existing state and
13 federal funded Medicare or Medicaid programs. A study published in 2012 on the impact of the
14 Affordable Care Act of 2010, indicates that there will continue to be a need for the BCCCP. Historically
15 in Hawaii, gap treatment funding was appropriated to the DHS. This bill keeps the continuum of breast
16 and cervical cancer education, screening, and outreach under DOH. DHS will continue to administer
17 treatment with federal and state funding for women who do not qualify for Medicare and Medicaid.

18 We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SB2447,SD1.



February 19, 2014

Dear Committee on Ways and Means:

As a private citizen of the state of Hawaii, I would like to encourage you to move SB 2447 forward as an important bill to help reduce the burden of breast and cervical cancer among women in the state of Hawaii.

- Breast and cervical cancer mortality rates can be reduced through screening and early detection.
- Cervical cancer is 100% curable if cancerous cells are detected early through screening.
- Catching breast cancer in early stages can save many lives and the lives of caregivers in our families.
- Breast and cervical cancer are disproportionate among poor women and minority women.
- Deadly breast cancers are disproportionately high among Native Hawaiian women in the state.

For the small cost of screening and early detections, future enormous healthcare costs related to treatment can be saved within the state. Therefore, I urge you to support SB 2447 so that women can receive the education, screening, treatment and outreach they need to curtail deaths due to breast and cervical cancer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pebbles Fagan, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Private Citizen of Hawaii and Tobacco Control Researcher
(Profession: Associate Professor, University of Hawaii)