
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CANCER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that after Congress
2 passed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Act in 1990,
3 which led to the creation of cancer screening programs in all
4 fifty states, the Hawaii breast and cervical cancer control
5 program was established in 1993. To address the issue of
6 treatment costs, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and
7 Treatment Act of 2000, P.L. 106-354, provided states with the
8 option to provide coverage for treatment costs to eligible women
9 screened for and diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer
10 through a state's breast and cervical cancer screening program.
11 As a result, the State established the breast and cervical
12 cancer treatment program, administered by the department of
13 human services med-QUEST division.

14 The legislature finds that the department of health's
15 breast and cervical cancer control program is the safety net for
16 the most vulnerable women in the State. Eligible women for the
17 program face numerous barriers in their efforts to receive



1 proper care, including socioeconomic status, language, literacy,
2 and affordability of adequate health insurance.

3 The legislature further finds that since 1997, the
4 department of health's breast and cervical cancer control
5 program has provided critical screening and early detection
6 services to more than nine thousand five hundred women and
7 diagnosed two hundred sixty-three invasive breast cancers and
8 one hundred forty-eight cervical cancers and precancerous
9 lesions. While progress is being made, breast and cervical
10 cancers continue to take the lives of nearly two hundred women
11 in the State each year.

12 The legislature further finds that federal funding for the
13 program has declined over the last five-year grant period, while
14 at the same time, the need for outreach and screening has
15 increased. Despite the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
16 Act providing more women with access to health insurance
17 coverage and preventative cancer screenings and treatment, gaps
18 still remain for women who continue to be uninsured or
19 underinsured or lack access to culturally sensitive, appropriate
20 health screening and care. The program is able to screen only a
21 fraction of women who are eligible for the program, and many



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JAN 23 2015



H.B. NO. 455

Report Title:

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program; Department of Health; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of health for the breast and cervical cancer control program.

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