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# 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 Prevention Act  
3 in 1990, which led to the creation of cancer screening programs  
4 in all fifty states, the Hawaii breast and cervical cancer  
5 control program was established in 1993. To address the issue  
6 of treatment costs, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention  
7 and Treatment Act of 2000, P.L. 106-354, provided states with  
8 the option to provide coverage for treatment costs to eligible  
9 women 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



1 women never receive the life-saving cancer screening. According  
2 to the department of health, approximately \$100,000 will allow  
3 the program to screen an additional one hundred twenty-five  
4 high-risk, uninsured or underinsured, rarely or never-screened  
5 women.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
7 department of health's breast and cervical cancer control  
8 program to continue its valuable breast and cervical cancer  
9 screening; diagnostic, education, and outreach services; and  
10 treatment referrals.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
15 2016-2017 for the breast and cervical cancer control program.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
17 of health for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



**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. (SB385 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

