



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
March 16, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

and

Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM

Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Interim Director, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2687 SD1 – RELATING TO CANCER

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center strongly supports this bill.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 69 institutions in the United States that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides cancer researchers in Hawai'i with greater access to federal funding and research opportunities, and gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to many innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

This bill will launch a sorely needed public colorectal cancer screening and awareness program. The goal of the program is to increase colon cancer screening rates in Hawai'i in conjunction with the "80% by 2018" initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths, killing nearly 60,000 people in the United States and more than 250 people in Hawai'i each year. Regular colorectal cancer screening in men and women over age 50 can reduce these deaths by more than 40 percent, with the potential to save 100 lives in Hawai'i each year.

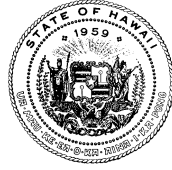
Recommended colorectal cancer screening tests include colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and stool blood tests. Costs for these tests range from \$600 for colonoscopy every 10 years to \$25 - \$30 for annual stool tests. In contrast, the cost of treating colon cancers ranges from \$10,000 (early stage disease) to \$40,000 (late stage disease) per person. This tremendous cost burden does not consider the debilitating morbidity and loss of productivity associated with colorectal cancer and its treatment.

Currently, approximately 72 percent of United States men and women age 50 and over have been screened for colorectal cancers. Hawai'i's screening rates for this group is

approximately 64 percent. However, when we look at differences by gender, ethnicity, location, education, or income, the colorectal cancer screening rates are much lower – often less than 40 percent for people over age 50 in some groups. The UH Cancer Center is currently conducting research designed to improve the uptake of colorectal cancer screening in several key underserved groups, including rural and Native Hawaiian populations, and we are meeting with great success in improving screening rates.

We believe that launching a state-led colorectal cancer screening and awareness campaign will provide the “rising tide that raises all ships” to help improve colorectal cancer screening rates in all at-risk groups, and to help Hawai‘i achieve and perhaps surpass the CDC’s goal of having 80 percent of Hawai‘i’s men and women over age 50 regularly screened for colorectal cancer by 2018.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2687, SD1  
RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING  
AND AWARENESS PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 16, 2016

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent of SB2687, SD1,  
2 to provide funding to the Department but defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request.  
3 The original appropriation was from the general fund, the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as  
4 may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the Hawaii Colorectal Cancer Screening and  
5 Awareness Program to the DOH. The Senate Draft 1 blanks out the appropriation.

6 **Department Testimony:**

7 The Department concurs with the premise for SB2687, SD1 to increase the awareness  
8 and screening according to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation  
9 for colorectal cancer screening beginning at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years.  
10 Early detection of colorectal cancer is critical as studies have shown, the five (5) year survival  
11 rate is about 90 percent among individuals whose cancer was found and treated appropriately.<sup>1</sup>  
12 Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Hawaii and there are clear ethnic  
13 and gender disparities in colorectal cancer mortality. Colorectal cancer screening rates are much  
14 lower for those residing in low-income households and those with less than a high school  
15 education. Although colorectal cancer screening rates have increased from 59.4% in 2011 to  
16 66.5% in 2014,<sup>2</sup> they remain well below the recommended goal of 80% by 2018.<sup>3</sup> Hawaii's  
17 screening rate when compared to all states ranks in the bottom half indicating there is more work  
18 to be done to increase early detection of colorectal cancer.

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts and Figures 2015

<sup>2</sup> Hawaii Health Data Warehouse; Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Colorectal screening (50-75), for the State of Hawaii, for the Years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, Reported Created: 1/7/16.

<sup>3</sup> National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable. 80% by 2018. Retrieved January 15, 2016 from <http://ncrct.org/tools/80-percent-by-2018/>.

1           Increasing colorectal cancer screening for people age 50 and over is a key priority for the  
2 DOH's Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the Hawaii Cancer Control  
3 Coalition's (HCCC) Colorectal Task Force. The proposed Colorectal Cancer Screening and  
4 Awareness Program in SB2687, SD1 aligns with the priorities in the Hawaii State Cancer Plan to  
5 increase colorectal screening rates, reduce morbidity and mortality of colorectal cancer through  
6 screening and early detection. The additional resources would be used to propel the concerted  
7 efforts with HCCC to educate women and men, in particular those at greater risk, so Hawaii can  
8 be closer to reaching the screening goal of 80 percent by 2018.

9           Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
808.432.9149  
[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

**SB 2687, SD1 – 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 2687, SD1, which appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department of Health to promote and educate the public on colorectal cancer prevention and awareness.

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 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 an education program through the 80 by 18 national initiative. The 80 by 18 initiative seeks to increase the screening rates for colorectal cancer to 80% by 2018. The Department of Health, along with community and health care organizations, are working to increase these rates to achieve the 80 by 18 goal. Funding through this measure will help all the parties move closer to achieving this goal.

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health  
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health  
Members, Committee on Health

From:   
Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 14, 2016

Hrg: House Committee on Health Hearing; Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 8:30am in Room  
329

**Re: Support for SB 2687 SD1, Relating to Cancer**

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My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I would like to express my **support** for SB 2687, SD1, which would establish a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program.

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in our nation. Early detection is key in the prevention of colorectal cancer. Screening can detect pre-cancerous polyps and discover colorectal cancer at an early stage, when treatment is most effective. As a member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network, Queen's is committed to delivering the very best cancer management services and works diligently to advocate for increased early detection within the community.

We urge the legislature to support SB 2687, SD1. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

## HLTtestimony

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From: Val Toro <sistaval@kpoa.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:52 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2687 SD1; 3/16/16 HLT hearing

House Committee on Health

Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

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Mahalo no,  
Sista Val  
On-air Personality/Music Director  
KPOA 93.5 F.M.  
Pa'ia, Maui

[sistaval@kpoa.com](mailto:sistaval@kpoa.com)

## HLTtestimony

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From: Mark K. Vasconcellos <Mark.Vasconcellos@hertz.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:05 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: "Testimony in Support of SB2687 SD1; 3/16/16 HLT hearing"

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Mahalo,  
Mark Vasconcellos  
Honolulu Oahu

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## HLTtestimony

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From: Rosemary Calvin <rcalvan@hertz.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:27 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: Colorectal screening

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Mahalo,  
Rose Calvin

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## HLTtestimony

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From: Daniel Shockley <daniel.afap.12@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:37 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: HLTESTIMONY / SB 2687 / CRC SURVIVOR DANIEL SHOCKLEY

House Committee on Health

Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. As a colorectal cancer (CRC) survivor and advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) I have been afforded the opportunity to share my journey as a life case presentation on behalf of those who have gone before me impacted by this condition and unable to share their story. Colorectal cancer is not only preventable and beatable it is also treatable if diagnosed early. I have witnessed too many friends and colleagues affected by CRC in recent years. It is important to educate our community on the importance of screening in an effort to save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, however, in my case there were no symptoms leading up to my first colonoscopy in May 2012 at age 51. As a result of my screening, at the VA Medical Center, GI Clinic, via a colonoscopy, 100 polyps were found embedded throughout my colon, rectum and anus. These findings lead to DNA testing at Tripler which revealed I have the gene mutation, Adenomatous Polyposis Coli (APC) which confirmed the diagnosis of Attenuated Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (AFAP) in June 2012. As a result of these findings I underwent successful total-proctocolotomy-w/ileostomy surgery in July 2012 at Tripler. This life-saving surgery allowed me the opportunity to be a success story for the importance of CRC awareness and screening. You can read the feature article that was released by the Tripler Public Affairs Office about my case at the following link: [www.army.mil/article/90122](http://www.army.mil/article/90122). Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Respectfully,

Daniel P. Shockley  
Aiea, Hawaii  
Mob: 808.445.4291  
Email: [Daniel.afap.12@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.afap.12@gmail.com)

## HLTtestimony

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From: Harriet Ho <hosacreddancer@icloud.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 1:42 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: In support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1

House Committee on Health

Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5- year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Harriet Ho - Honolulu, Hawaii  
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I will be attending the hearing in favor of this measure and as a live case presentation.

Please share this email w/your friends, family and colleagues.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Updates will be provided as they become available.

In HIS pasture,

Daniel  
Mob 445.4291

## HLTtestimony

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From: Chris Bush <cbhula@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 1:41 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2687 SD1; 3/16/16 HLT hearing

Dear members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5- year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Respectfully,

**Christine Budynkiewicz**

**7238 B Hawaii Kai Dr. Unit B**

**Honolulu, HI 96825**

## HLTtestimony

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From: Donlon, Susan S CIV USARMY MEDCOM TAMC (US) <susan.s.donlon.civ@mail.mil>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 12:08 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2687 SD1; 3/16/16 HLT hearing (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

House Committee on Health

Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

As a Cancer Genetic Counselor for 22 years, I can verify that a proper risk assessment and screening saves lives. I am therefore in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1.

Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Thank you for your attention.  
Susan Donlon M.S.  
Certified Genetic Counselor

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

## HLTtestimony

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From: Lynn.Ikeda@kp.org  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 5:09 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: "Testimony in Support of SB2687 SD1; 3/16/16 HLT hearing"

House Committee on Health

Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

I am in support of Senate Bill 2687, Senate Draft 1. Too many people suffer and needlessly die from cancer every year, when preventative screenings can help save lives. Colorectal cancer is often found after symptoms appear, but most people with early colorectal cancer don't have symptoms of the disease. This is why it's important to get the recommended screening tests before any symptoms develop. In many people, screening can also prevent colorectal cancer by finding and removing polyps before they have the chance to turn into cancer. When colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5- year relative survival rate is about 90%. But only about 4 out of 10 colorectal cancers are found at this early stage. When cancer has spread outside the colon or rectum, survival rates are lower. Please move this measure forward and help us take one step closer to preventing another tragic loss of life from cancer.

Thank you,

Lynn Ikeda

Honolulu, Hawaii

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