



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0749
RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING AND AWARENESS PILOT PROGRAM**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriated out of the general fund, the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as
2 may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary
3 for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the Hawaii Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program to the
4 Department of Health (DOH).

5 **Department Testimony:** The DOH appreciates the intent of SB0749, but defers to the Governor's
6 Executive Budget request. The DOH recognizes the importance of screening and early detection of
7 colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Hawaii and there are
8 clear ethnic and gender disparities in colorectal cancer mortality. In addition, colorectal cancer
9 screening rates are much lower for those residing in low-income households and those less than a high
10 school education.

11 Since 1997, the Department has provided critical breast and cervical cancer screening and early
12 detection services to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women through the Breast and Cervical
13 Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). The program's support has been instrumental in helping community
14 providers build the capacity and infrastructure needed to reach women most at risk and raise
15 community awareness around early detection.

16 Modeled after the BCCCP, a Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program would
17 increase awareness and screening rates, currently at 61 percent, of men and women over the age of 50
18 in an effort to reach a goal of 80 percent by 2018. The activities would not be sustainable beyond the
19 proposed appropriation.

20 **Offered Amendments:** None.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

SB 749, Relating to the Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program
Senate Committee on Health
Hearing—February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Dear Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to take this opportunity to provide support with reservations for SB 749, which would authorize and fund the Hawaii Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program.

As noted in the bill, effective colorectal cancer screening can help increase detections at an early stage. Early detection can help to decrease mortality rates. I would urge legislators to look to the success of the state's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) and engage the same community providers and partners for the implementation of this pilot program. The BCCCP has been an effective program in increasing accessing to screenings for many women in the state. I ask for your support in implementing the colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program in a fashion consistent with the BCCCP.

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.