

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in Support for SCR0049
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENDORSE THE "SCREEN AT 23"
CAMPAIGN THAT SCREENS ADULT ASIAN AMERICANS FOR TYPE 2
DIABETES AT A BODY MASS INDEX OF 23**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 14, 2016 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SCR49. The purpose of
3 SCR49 is to urge the Department to endorse the "Screen at 23" campaign efforts to increase
4 awareness of diabetes among Asian American communities. Current guidelines recommend that
5 individuals with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 receive screening for Type 2 diabetes.¹
6 However, the American Diabetes Association, National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention have recently acknowledged that this standard misses a
8 significant number of Asian Americans and that Asian Americans should therefore be tested at a
9 lower BMI of 23.² The "Screen at 23" campaign strives to bring awareness to this issue and
10 motivate health care providers to adopt this new standard.³

11 Diabetes and pre-diabetes rates have been steadily increasing in Hawaii; nearly one
12 quarter of all adults in Hawaii (24.1%) report having diabetes or pre-diabetes.⁴ Alarminglly,
13 these rates do not fully capture the burden of these conditions. Based on a study by Dall, et al,
14 (2014) and a methodology developed by the American Diabetes Association, half of all adults in
15 Hawaii (52.7%) currently have diabetes (11.2%) or pre-diabetes (41.5%).^{5,6} Asian Americans

¹ American Diabetes Association Position Statement: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes — 2015. Diabetes Care 2015;38(Suppl. 1): S1–S94

² National Institutes of Health. 2015. More than half of Asian Americans with diabetes are undiagnosed [Press release].

³ Screenat23.org

⁴ Hawaii Health Data Warehouse. Diabetes Prevalence - Categorical. Honolulu, Hawaii: Hawaii State Department of Health;2016

⁵ Dall TM, Yang W, Halder P, et al. The economic burden of elevated blood glucose levels in 2012: Diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, gestational diabetes mellitus, and prediabetes. Diabetes Care. 2014;37:3172-3179.

⁶ American Diabetes Association. The burden of diabetes in Hawaii. In: Association AD, ed. Alexandria, VA: n.d.

1 make up just over half of the state's population.⁷ Lowering the BMI benchmark for Type 2
2 diabetes screening would identify a significant number of people with undiagnosed diabetes and
3 enable them to sooner access interventions that could improve glucose function and reduce
4 negative health effects.

5 The DOH supports endorsing the "Screen at 23" campaign to increase diabetes awareness
6 and screening and reduce disparities among Asian Americans in Hawaii. In addition, the DOH
7 will work with health care providers to participate in this campaign.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

⁷ Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Research and Economic Analysis Division.