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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 "80% by 2018" is an  
2 initiative by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, a  
3 working group established by the United States Centers for  
4 Disease Control and Prevention and other national cancer control  
5 stakeholders, in which organizations have committed to  
6 eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public health problem  
7 and are working toward the shared goal of getting eighty per  
8 cent of adults aged fifty and older screened for colorectal  
9 cancer by 2018.

10           The "80% by 2018" initiative is vital to reducing the  
11 burden of cancer because:

12           (1) Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer  
13 death in men and women in the United States, and a  
14 cause of considerable suffering among more than one  
15 hundred forty thousand adults diagnosed with  
16 colorectal cancer each year;



1 (2) When adults get screened for colorectal cancer, it can  
2 be detected early at a stage when treatment is most  
3 likely to be successful, and in some cases, it can be  
4 prevented through the detection and removal of  
5 precancerous polyps;

6 (3) About twenty-three million people, which is about one  
7 in three adults between fifty and seventy-five years  
8 old, are not getting tested as recommended;

9 (4) The people less likely to get tested are rural  
10 populations, men, those aged fifty to sixty-four, and  
11 those with lower education and income;

12 (5) There are several recommended screening test options,  
13 including colonoscopy, stool tests such as a guaiac  
14 fecal occult blood test or fecal immunochemical test,  
15 and sigmoidoscopy;

16 (6) Screening can save lives but only if people get  
17 tested; and

18 (7) The best test is the test that gets done.

19 The legislature further finds that according to the United  
20 States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, Hawaii's  
21 current screening rate for colorectal cancer is sixty-four per



1 cent. Hawaii's screening rate, however, when compared to all  
2 states ranks in the bottom half, indicating there is more work  
3 to be done to increase colorectal cancer screening rates.

4 The legislature also finds that the "80% by 2018"  
5 initiative's goal of increasing the colorectal cancer screening  
6 rate to eighty per cent by 2018 will increase the quality of  
7 life for hundreds of people in the State by detecting and  
8 preventing death from late stage colorectal cancer and lessening  
9 the physical, emotional, and financial burden that may come with  
10 a cancer diagnosis.

11 The purpose of this Act is to launch a colorectal cancer  
12 screening and awareness pilot program to promote and encourage  
13 screening through a public awareness campaign to help the State  
14 achieve an increase in screening rates in conjunction with the  
15 "80% by 2018" initiative.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the colorectal cancer  
17 screening and awareness pilot program, to be administered by the  
18 department of health. The department of health shall:

19 (1) Provide education and outreach to:



- 1 (A) Educate women and men regarding the risks  
2 associated with colorectal cancer and the  
3 benefits of screening; and
- 4 (B) Provide specific education to individuals who are  
5 at greater risk for colorectal cancer; and
- 6 (2) Award grants to health care providers to provide  
7 colorectal cancer screening to eligible participants,  
8 as described in subsection (b).
- 9 (b) To be an eligible participant to receive screening  
10 assistance pursuant to subsection (a)(2), a person shall:
- 11 (1) Be at least fifty years of age, or have a high risk  
12 for colorectal cancer if under the age of fifty;
- 13 (2) Be uninsured, or if underinsured have coverage that  
14 does not cover the full cost of colorectal cancer  
15 screenings;
- 16 (3) Not be eligible for medical assistance; and
- 17 (4) Have a gross family income at or below two hundred  
18 fifty per cent of the poverty level.
- 19 (c) Any eligible participant who is:
- 20 (1) Not at high risk for colorectal cancer may be offered  
21 any fecal test assigned a grade of either A or B by



1 the United States Preventive Services Task Force and a  
2 follow-up colonoscopy for a positive test result; and

3 (2) At high risk for colorectal cancer shall be provided a  
4 colonoscopy as a first-line screening;

5 provided that grants awarded to health care providers under the  
6 colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program shall  
7 pay the costs for a colonoscopy for eligible participants who  
8 lack insurance coverage for the full cost of the follow-up  
9 colonoscopy or first-line screening colonoscopy.

10 (d) For purposes of this section, an eligible participant  
11 is considered "high risk for colorectal cancer" if the person  
12 has:

13 (1) A family history of colorectal cancer;

14 (2) A prior occurrence of cancer or precursor neoplastic  
15 polyps;

16 (3) A prior occurrence of a chronic digestive disease  
17 condition; or

18 (4) Other predisposing factors, as determined by the  
19 department of health.

20 (e) The department of health shall submit to the  
21 legislature:



- 1           (1) A preliminary report no later than twenty days prior  
2           to the convening of the regular session of 2018 on the  
3           expenditure of funds for the colorectal cancer  
4           screening and awareness pilot program as of the date  
5           of the preliminary report; and
- 6           (2) A final report no later than twenty days prior to the  
7           convening of the regular session of 2020 on the  
8           expenditure of all funds for the colorectal cancer  
9           screening and awareness pilot program as of the date  
10          of the final report.

11           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
15 2018-2019 for the colorectal cancer screening and awareness  
16 pilot program established pursuant to this Act.

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

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# H.B. NO. 62

**Report Title:**

Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program;  
Department of Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates the colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program within the department of health and appropriates funds for the program. Repeals on 6/30/2020.

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

