

SB398

Measure Title: RELATING TO CANCER.

Report Title: Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program;
Department of Health; Appropriation (\$)

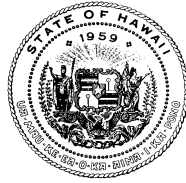
Description: Creates the colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program within the department of health and appropriates funds for the program. Repeals on 6/30/2020.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, ESPERO, HARIMOTO, KIDANI, K. RHOADS, S. Chang,
English, Nishihara



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on Senate Bill No. 0398
RELATING TO CANCER**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 1, 2017 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the priorities of the Governor's
2 Executive Biennium Budget request. The bill appropriates out of the general revenues \$250,000
3 for fiscal year (FY) 2017-2018 and \$250,000 for FY 2018-2019 and would be repealed on June
4 30, 2020.

5 **Department Testimony:** The DOH offers comments on Senate Bill No. SB0398. The U.S.
6 Preventive Services Task Force recognizes the importance of early detection and recommends
7 screening for colorectal cancer beginning at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years.
8 According to the American Cancer Society 2016 Cancer Facts and Figures, early detection of
9 colorectal cancer is critical as studies have shown, the five (5) year survival rate is close to 90
10 percent among individuals whose cancer was found and treated appropriately. Colorectal cancer
11 is the second leading cause of cancer death in Hawaii with clear ethnic and gender disparities.

12 Colorectal cancer screening rates are much lower for those residing in low-income
13 households and those with less than a high school education. Despite colorectal screening rates
14 having increased from 59.4% in 2011, to 66.5% in 2014, and now at 70.5% in 2015, they remain
15 below the nationally recommended goal of 80% by 2018.¹

16 Increasing colorectal cancer screening for people age 50 years and over is a key priority
17 for the DOH's Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (HCCCP) and the Hawaii

¹ Source: Hawaii Health Data Warehouse; Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Colorectal screening (50-75), for the State of Hawaii, for the Years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015.

1 Cancer Control Coalition’s Colorectal Task Force. The proposed Colorectal Cancer Screening
2 and Awareness Pilot Program in SB0398 aligns with the priorities in the Hawaii State Cancer
3 Plan to increase colorectal screening rates and reduce morbidity and mortality of colorectal
4 cancer through screening and early detection.

5 SB0398 raises issues that relate to procurement, sustainability, and capacity. Section
6 (a)(2), page 4, lines 6-8 of the bill requires the DOH to, “award grants to health care providers to
7 provide colorectal cancer screening to eligible participants.” Since state agencies are not
8 authorized to award grants, the Department would need to competitively select health care
9 providers in accordance to Chapter 103F-401, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The 80% by 2018
10 while a commendable goal, would require a 12% increase in adult screening rates from 70.5% in
11 2015. The recently published Hawaii State Cancer Plan set the objective at 80% by 2020
12 providing more time to achieve both a population-based change in screening, and targeted
13 changes in screening rates for priority populations identified in SB0398. Given that the
14 appropriated funds are limited to a two (2) year period, and without continued public education
15 and screening interventions the increases in screening rates may erode over time, unless systems
16 changes are also implemented that support the behavior change. SB0398 does not specify that
17 the funds can be used for personnel costs associated with administering the proposed screening
18 and awareness program, and the expectations in this measure will require more capacity than
19 currently available in the HCCCP.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 398, RELATING TO CANCER.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Jill T. Nagamine, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill would establish a colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program, to be administered by the Department of Health. The department would be required to provide education and outreach regarding the risks associated with colorectal cancer and the benefits of screening, and would also be required to award grants to health care providers to use to screen eligible participants, who are individuals who are at least fifty years of age or at high risk for colorectal cancer. The department would be required to report to the Legislature on the expenditure of funds. The bill would appropriate \$250,000 for each of the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years.

While we support the intent of the bill, as currently drafted the means of expending funds may be challenged as violating the Hawaii Constitution. Section 2(a)(2) at page 4, lines 6-8, requires the Department of Health to "[a]ward grants to health care providers to provide colorectal cancer screening to eligible participants, as described in subsection (b)." Article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution provides in part that "No grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." The Department of Health is not authorized to award grants, but it could achieve the goals intended by this bill if the Legislature appropriated

additional funds in its budget for the department to procure the services that the Legislature intended to provide by this bill. Possible wording to accomplish this is:

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$_____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including providing colorectal cancer screening to individuals who are at least fifty years of age or at high risk for colorectal cancer.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

If the Committee decides to proceed with this bill, we respectfully ask the Committee to amend the funding provision of the bill to meet the requirements of article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
February 1, 2017 at 9:00 am

By
Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA
Director, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 398 – RELATING TO CANCER

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports this bill.

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center) is one of only 69 institutions in the U.S. that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to 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.

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 great success in improving screening rates.

We believe that launching a state-led colorectal cancer screening and awareness campaign will help to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in all at-risk groups, and to help Hawai'i achieve 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



**American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network**
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SB 398 – 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 398, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to provide for colorectal cancer screening services to underserved individuals and outreach of colorectal cancer prevention.

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.

“80% by 2018” is a National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable initiative in which hundreds of organizations have committed to substantially reducing colorectal cancer as a major public health problem for those 50 and older. These organizations are working toward the shared goal of 80% of adults aged 50 and older being regularly screened for colorectal cancer by 2018. The 80% by 2018 initiative is led by the American Cancer Society (ACS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (an organization co-founded by ACS and CDC).

Colorectal cancer is preventable. It begins as a non-cancerous formation, known as a polyp. If the polyp is detected during the screening process, the entire polyp is removed before it can become cancer. Screening is also critical to detecting cancer at the earliest stages, when treatment is most effective. Despite the overwhelming benefits of screening for colorectal cancer, less than 40% of patients are diagnosed at a localized stage, partly due to the underuse of screening. Individuals 50 to 64 years old – particularly certain ethnicities, persons living in rural areas, and individuals with lower socio-economic status are the groups least likely to be screened for colorectal cancer, contributing to higher death rates from the disease.

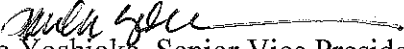
Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men and the third leading cause of death in women in the state. According to data collected from the Hawaii tumor registry, Hawaii sees an average of 722 new cases of colon and rectum cancer each year, with an average of 224 deaths from the disease. Hawaii has a higher incidence rate than the overall U.S. rate, with the highest ethnic incidence rate coming from Japanese males and females while the highest mortality rate coming from Native Hawaiian males and females. These deaths are preventable, and increasing access to screenings will go a long way to saving more lives from cancer.

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



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Date: January 30, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committee Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Wednesday,
February 1, 2017 at 9:00AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for SB 398, Relating to Cancer**

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** SB 398, which would establish a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program.

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in our nation. Screening and 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 deliver 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 398. 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.

**February 1, 2017/9:00am
Conference Room 229**

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Julio Zamarripa, MSN, RN
Hawaii Pacific Health/Straub Medical Center

Re: Testimony in Support - SB 398

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Baker and CPH Committee Members:

I would like to submit testimony in support of SB398 relating to cancer in particular colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program appropriation. As a nurse working closely with gastrointestinal diseases, I believe this a necessary cause. I have seen firsthand lack of knowledge and fear associated with screening methods that would benefit from a Department of Health educational outreach. The data provided in the bill is correct noting to the fact colorectal cancer is the third most common cause of cancer deaths in the United States effecting men and women equally. In addition, at times your constituents would like to proceed with screening but fear lack of monetary resources to proceed. They are unaware of coverage for screening under the Affordable Care Act provided by their insurance providers. I appreciate the bills inclusion of appropriating funds to assist those in need and support the eligibility requirements. I urge you to please Support SB398 as it will have positive impact in reaching 80% colorectal screening by 2018.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

Julio Zamarripa MSN, RN
888 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-522-4233
julio.zamarripa@straub.net



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: SB 398 – Relating to Cancer

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB398, which would create the colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program within the Department of Health.

Studies have shown that the most efficient and effective way of detecting precancerous growths are through screening tests and that early detection is key. HMSA supports the establishment of a program to facilitate early detection of colorectal cancer and provide support those uninsured or underinsured individuals who have been identified as needing a screening. Increasing screening opportunities for individuals compliments HMSA's ongoing preventive care policy and underscores the belief that such detection programs are essential for those individuals who otherwise may not be tested.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of SB 398.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Oto
Director, Government Relations.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:18 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: lgds@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB398 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM

SB398

Submitted on: 1/25/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louren Delos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The importance of supporting this bill speaks for itself. If approved it will be able to save many lives.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and other members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health committee,

My name is Ye Eun "Stella" Lee. I'm a graduate of Sacred Hearts Academy and I'm currently attending Brown University. My eventual goal is to come back to Hawaii and attend JABSOM, where I'm hoping to make a difference in our community.

In the meantime, I want to make a difference by advocating for policies that would provide benefits to Hawaii residents. This bill will make a difference by providing educational awareness and screenings for low income residents. Having helped to conduct outreach to lower-socio economic status communities, I wholeheartedly believe that this will help improve the colon cancer screening rate in Hawaii.

As someone that is hoping to be involved in the medical community in Hawaii, I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Ye Eun "Stella" Lee

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and other members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health committee,

My name is Patrick Tran. I'm a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and currently work as a Software Engineer in the Bay Area.

I am testifying because cancer has affected my family. My uncle was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, the same form of cancer that Congressman Takai's life. While my uncle is undergoing treatment, I want to make sure that others never have to go through the pain and suffering caused by cancer.

I support this bill because it would help to provide colon cancer screenings for low income residents and ensure that there is educational outreach around these screenings. If we can help prevent hundreds of Hawaii residents from developing cancer due to the detection of precancerous polyps and help those with the early stages of colon cancer, this will help better our community.

I urge you to support this bill.
Sincerely,
Patrick Tran

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

My name is Niha Prasad and I am writing to express my support for the SB398. As a wife of a physician, I have heard many stories of patients who were diagnosed with various cancers, particularly colorectal cancer, at advanced stages.

Often my husband has been the first person to bear this heartbreaking news to the patient and their families. I have watched him struggle over and over again trying to understand why so many people do not get screening for colon cancer. It is truly heartbreaking to hear about people's lack of awareness about colorectal cancer screening until there are not many options are left for treatments.

SB398 will increase awareness and promote early screening for colorectal cancer and in turn will save countless lives. It is the second deadliest form of cancer but it is also one of the few forms of cancer that can be prevented with early screening. I wholeheartedly believe we should all work towards bringing awareness to this issue so diagnosis and treatments could be done at the right time.

I encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Niha Prasad

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: LorMona Meredith
46-269 Kahuhipa Street
Apt D302
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: SB 398, RELATING TO CANCER

My name is LorMona Meredith and I am a colon cancer survivor. I support this bill, as I am confident it will help out so many Hawai'i residents have access to much needed colorectal cancer screenings, and to increase awareness of just how important these screenings are.

I want to share my story with you, and my journey to discovering I had colon cancer. I was born in Kahuku, Hawai'i, then moved to American Samoa when I was about 4 years old, and then later to Samoa, where I spent a great part of my life. I am the oldest of 8 children; 6 boys, 2 girls. Cancer was rarely heard of or spoken of in our household back then, and if it was, I always thought of it as a plot line in a soap opera or a disease that would never affect me. Back then no one I knew had it, so I wasn't directly affected by it, and since I wasn't affected by it, I did not care to know more about it.

I had stomach-related pain and health issues since 2010 and was first diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome. In November 2012 I started losing weight rapidly. I attributed this to stress from work and raising two children on a single parent income. I was anemic, had lost my appetite and my energy waned. I lost about 50 lbs in the span of two to three months without putting much effort into physical exercise. I started noticing a strange small lump in my stomach. It felt like a small ball on my right side. Over time I felt like it was growing bigger and thought I was imagining things, then it became much more noticeable. After multiple consultations with the physician assistants in my doctor's office and various screening exams (ultrasound, CT-scan), I found out later that this strange lump was a large tumor that had developed within the walls of my digestive system, and that the pain I had experienced all these years was most likely due to the ulcerations in the colon. After showing signs of an abnormal CT scan, the Physician's Assistant in my doctor's office was able to get me an appointment to see her gastroenterologist, who, after hearing my story and looking at my recent scan results, later determined that I needed to get checked out right away.

On March 5th 2013, I underwent an upper GI endoscopy and colonoscopy. After the procedure that morning, I was wheeled down to my doctor's office where I was shown the results and told that I had moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma, which

fortunately for me had not metastasized. A biopsy was done on the tumor and I was later diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer.

My first thought was - is this really happening to me? Is this for real? I was in shock and felt utterly alone. Then my thoughts turned to my children. Who would take care of them if something happened to me? I was all of a sudden faced with a reality that I never thought would exist in my realm of thinking: that my kids could be left without a mother, *sooner* rather than *later*. A swirl of fears crept in: How was I going to get through all of this? What about money? What about my job? What can I do to get better? It was all so overwhelming!!!

I was fortunate to go through this most challenging time with an amazing support network. I had the help, faith and love of my family, friends, my healthcare team, and members of the community, strangers even, who had heard my story through a friend or on social media. I can't ever forget how I felt during that time of illness, from feeling down and alone, to feelings of being loved, cared for, lifted up and supported in so many different ways. I am always humbled by the various acts of kindness and services that were rendered to me while I was battling cancer. My brother quit his full time job as a high school teacher and moved in to help me with the kids. My mom also gave up a lot to take care of me during this time. When I couldn't qualify for temporary disability insurance because I had exhausted all of my sick leave for my medical appointments, my work colleagues donated their vacation leave for my benefit. My sister in law Jenn and good friend Sita started a crowdsourcing fundraiser online. The funds that folks donated had paid for most of my living expenses when I was on leave without pay for months.

People from my church, school, community and from my childhood past, reached out to me, sent me money, flowers, gifts, cards, sweet words of encouragement, prayers, hope and love. Abby, the physician assistant, and now very good friend, who had 'discovered' my tumor and was instrumental in my cancer journey, got together with her friends and my family and put on a wonderful musical fundraiser for me. I felt so loved. I felt hope. I felt the spirit of family and the strong support of community. I thought - wow, if we can do this for others and pay it forward, we can lift so many others, save so many lives!

With the aloha and support of so many people, I knew that although I was afraid and did not know what the future held for me and my little family, I was determined not to let cancer take over my life. I chose to fight back. I refused to sit idle and let this terrible disease take over. I did not want to leave Lemalie and Aduen without a mom. I began frantic research on cancer, chemotherapy and also participated in therapy sessions and health workshops to keep my family engaged. In late March 2013, I had surgery done to remove the tumor, then went through 6 months of intensive chemotherapy treatment. My second treatment left me with permanent peripheral

neuropathy in my hands and feet, but that is something minor and I have lived with it for the past three years.

My cancer went into remission in April 2014, and I have been cancer-free ever since. I continue to see my oncologist every 3 months and have a colonoscopy done every year. A friend of mine recently shared my story as a video on her blog site, and as a result it encouraged my family members and other members of the Polynesian community to undergo colorectal cancer screenings. I share my story because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of so many others who have been touched and affected by the pain and suffering caused by cancer. The cancer patient, the caregiver, the survivors, the family network, the community. I strongly believe that by sharing our resources, making screenings available and accessible to those who need it, we can become a healthier, thriving and stronger Hawai'i.

There is still so much more work to be done. We have much more we can do to save the lives of those battling cancer -- as well as those who may be at risk -- in Hawai'i. We need to support legislation that promotes awareness about the types of screening Hawai'i residents can get to detect colon cancer early, and we need these screenings to be affordable and available, to all residents of Hawaii.

Thank you very much for your time. I humbly urge you to consider supporting this bill.

Mahalo,

LorMona Meredith

Colon Cancer Survivor

lormona@gmail.com

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Holly Ho-Chee-Dupont

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Holly Ho-Chee-Dupont and I am writing to express my support for SB398. I was a caregiver to many family members who died from cancer. I want to tell you about my sister, Deborah, who passed away from colon cancer.

It's been two years since my sister Deborah passed away. She was diagnosed with colon cancer and despite the treatment she endured, remained kind, generous and touched many people because of her loving spirit and dedicated effort in making someone's day.

Because of her and her memory, I am a strong advocate for this bill and want to make sure that others won't have to feel the pain when a loved one is gone. This bill would ensure that Hawaii residents will be more aware about the many screening options available for colorectal cancer screenings. As a Cancer Patient Navigator for the Queen's Medical Center Cancer Center, I can personally attest to the need for greater outreach to Hawaii residents regarding the options for colorectal cancer screenings.

I wish to thank you for your anticipated support of SB398.

Mahalo,
Holly Ho-Chee-Dupont

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Gary Tanimitsu, and I am writing to express my support for SB398. I believe this bill will provide protections for many low-income residents in Hawaii, including myself.

As a senior, I have had difficulty finding permanent work over the past few years. In spite of this, I am grateful to have been covered by Medicare and Medicaid during this period. I've been able to receive excellent medical care when I landed in the hospital with pneumonia in 2011 and when I came down with an extreme case of the Shingles in 2015.

However, I'm long overdue for a colonoscopy, 8 years overdue to be exact. I was scheduled to have it done a couple of months ago but had to postpone it to take care of other pressing matters. I'm now planning to have it done this month and this screening procedure is made possible by the Medicare and Medicaid coverage that I currently have.

Since the recent election however, I'm genuinely worried about my ability to get cancer screenings like this and others in the future. As I continue to age, I anticipate that my need for such screenings as well as other services will increase.

By providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program, this bill will ensure that our fight against colorectal cancer, the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S. will continue without interruption. This bill will allow us to reach under screened communities and provide coverage for colorectal cancer screenings to those who need it the most. It will ensure that folks like me can still have coverage even with the turmoil that we're going through at the federal level.

I urge you to support this bill. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Gary Tanimitsu

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Esther Maniago

RE: SB 398, RELATING TO CANCER

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and other members of the committee,

My name is Esther Maniago, and I support this bill. I currently receive medical coverage through Medicaid and Medicare, and I am worried about the future of these programs and the fate of low-income Hawaii residents that rely on them. For myself and so many other Hawaii residents, having a state program that offers screenings for low-income residents is crucial to ensure that we can remain healthy and detect cancer early.

Three years ago, I had a colonoscopy and the thankfully the results were negative. However, I am supposed to get one done every 5 years so I need to have another colonoscopy in about 2 years. I've also been getting mammograms every year as recommended. If Medicaid and Medicare benefits are dramatically reduced, I may not be able to receive these cancer screening procedures regularly as I have in the past.

Having grown up in Hawaii and living here for most of my life, I believe that we need to look out for each other and make sure we remain healthy as a community. This bill will make it possible for low income seniors to continue getting regularly screened. Early detection will hopefully spare us from having to endure the burden of cancer.

I urge you to support this bill for myself and so many others like me. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Esther Maniago

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Other Members of this Committee,

As a cancer survivor I understand the importance of early detection and screening for cancer. As a friend of someone who is currently battling metastatic colon cancer I especially know the significance of colorectal cancer screenings.

My friend Linda was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer in 2012. By then, the cancer had already metastasized to her lungs and her oncologist bluntly told her that she had just months to live. Four years later, a new oncologist, several surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation, Linda is still here but facing daily challenges and will likely continue to face these challenges for the rest of her life. Had Linda been screened for colorectal cancer sooner she most likely would not have been faced with such a dire prognosis.

SB398 could potentially spare hundreds of Hawaii residents each year from what my friend has faced and will play an essential role in increasing the screening rate for our state.

Hawaii is such a close-knit state and like myself I am sure you have been touched by someone who has been diagnosed with colon cancer. We ask that you take the lead in preventing so many from the unnecessary pain and suffering of cancer.

Mahalo,

Chandra Quinlan

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Beverly Wong

RE: SB 398, RELATING TO CANCER

My name is Beverly Wong and I am writing to express my support for SB398. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward saving the lives of Hawaii residents by promoting early screening of colorectal cancer.

My mother was a colon cancer survivor and were fortunate to have her love, care and company for 25 additional years. Her survival was in no small part due to a very competent doctor who diagnosed her condition at an early stage.

Because of this personal experience, I feel that others would benefit from the early detection and screening of colon cancer. This bill will help ensure that we fight against colorectal cancer, the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S., by providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program. It will help to ensure that we reach under screened communities and also provide coverage for colorectal cancer screenings to those who need it the most.

Please support this bill so that Hawaii residents will have a chance to survive colon cancer and enjoy a fulfilling life for many more years.

Sincerely,
Beverly Wong

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 12:56 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB398 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM*

SB398

Submitted on: 1/26/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Jennifer Hausler

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

My name is Jennifer Hausler and I am writing to express my strong support for SB398. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward saving the lives of Hawaii residents by promoting early screening of colorectal cancer.

My husband, Glenn Shimada, died at age 32 from colon cancer. He may be alive today if he had been screened and not have missed the lives of our two sons who were five years old and eight months old when he passed away.

Colorectal cancer affects nearly 1,000 Hawaii residents in Hawaii every year which could be prevented with early detection and screening for pre-cancerous polyps. Two of my best friends were diagnosed with colon cancer after they completed a screening. Fortunately, both were able to afford the screening and both are now 5+ year survivors.

Because of this personal experience, I feel that others would benefit from the early detection and screening of colon cancer. This bill will help ensure that we fight against colorectal cancer, the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S., by providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program. It will help to ensure that we reach under screened communities and also provide coverage for colorectal cancer screenings to those who need it the most.

On behalf of my husband, my best friends and so many Hawaii residents, please pass this bill.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Hausler

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB 398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Alberto Rodriguez and I am writing to express my support for SB398. I have witnessed my coworker's fight against cancer and I want to make sure that others are able to undergo early detection and screening for cancer.

In my military service over the past two decades, I have had the pleasure of supervising great men and women that proudly serve our country. One of the men I supervised, Master Sergeant Hewitt, received a cancer diagnosis upon returning from serving in Afghanistan. Upon hearing the news, we all approached his diagnosis with the Soldier's Creed: You never quit, you never leave a fallen comrade. MSG Hewitt approached the situation with a positive and inspirational attitude. The rest of his colleagues, including myself, his direct supervisor, tried our best to support him throughout his cancer treatment by ensuring that we could support him in his work-life balance as he underwent the stress of cancer treatment.

Eventually, MSG Hewitt separated from the military. While this built upon the stress of his cancer treatments, he demonstrated the will of a warrior that showed that he would be able to beat his cancer diagnosis.

I know that MSG Hewitt's experience is similar to many others in our armed services. And I have personally committed myself to ensuring that I can help out my fellow servicemen and all Hawaii residents by supporting legislation that would help promote early detection and treatment of cancer to ensure that individuals like MSG Hewitt are able to serve another day.

I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Alberto Rodriguez
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 398

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of this committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB398. I have witnessed a family member's struggle against cancer and I want to make sure that others are able to undergo early detection and screening from cancer.

My sister is a fifteen-year colorectal cancer survivor. Her children, grandchildren as well as our family members have been undergoing colorectal cancer screenings and we all want to make sure that we can help educate Hawaii residents about why these screenings are so important.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mahalo,
Gay Okada
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Island

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Irene Stielow

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Irene Stielow and I am writing to express my support for SB398. My family has been directly impacted by cancer, and as someone that has witnessed and served as a caregiver to these loved ones, I want to make sure that others are able to undergo early detection and screening to help prevent their early passing.

My father, brother-in-law and husband have all passed away from cancer that may have been prevented with early screenings and detection. My father, who was diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer, passed away from the surgery tied to his cancer diagnosis. My brother-in-law also passed away from lung cancer which again, could have been avoided had it been detected earlier. Finally, my husband lost his battle to cancer when he found that he was diagnosed with stage 3 kidney cancer. After undergoing surgery, he spent eight days in intensive care before he passed away at 67 years of age.

Cancer has touched my life so significantly and taken away so many loved ones before their time. I want to make sure that other Hawaii residents do not have to go through the pain and suffering caused by cancer. On behalf of all those touched by cancer, I want to thank you for consideration of my testimony and urge your support for this bill.

Mahalo,
Irene Stielow

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB398. While that my immediate family has been cancer free, I witnessed the hardships that one of the pastors at our local congregation has gone through over the past several months. As such, I wholeheartedly support legislation that would help to lessen the burden of cancer.

One morning service, Pastor Janet gave a sermon despite weeks of chemotherapy and its side effects. Her husband and the church family have been critical social supports during her treatments. Losing hair, weight, and much sleep, she still pushed through to deliver an inspiring, heart-felt, and humorous message to the congregation with a focus around the need for us to realize that we can put action to faith in addition to praying for a cure. Several of the men and other pastors shaved their heads bald to stand with Pastor Janet. I demonstrate my faith in action by testifying to the need to screen a larger share of the population to detect and fight cancer.

This bill will help ensure that we fight against colorectal cancer, the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S., by providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program; ensuring that we reach under screened communities and also provide coverage for colorectal cancer screenings to those who need it the most.

I urge you to support this bill. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
James Gauer.

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Laura Evans

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

My name is Laura Evans and I am writing to express my support for SB398. As a cancer survivor, I know how important early detection and cancer screenings are to a successful outcome for cancer patients.

I have battled breast cancer four times, spanning 12 years. When I was first diagnosed, my son was only three years old. My first and greatest fear was that I would not live to see the many milestones in his life that mothers cherish such as his graduation, first girlfriend, college marriage-the list is endless.

I was too young for a mammogram and too busy with my growing business to take time out for routine checkups. Consequently, my tumor was quite large when detected. After surgery with radiation, the cancer returned again and was invasive. Throughout these past years, I have endured a total of four occurrences, endured four rounds of chemotherapy, two rounds of radiation and lost my hair twice. I had to seek treatment on the mainland, and this traveling and separation wreaked havoc on family, leading to my divorce from my husband. I missed so many priceless moments with my son. I was unable to continue working and suffered financial hardship.

I am so grateful to be alive today and to share a wonderful life with my amazing son. I cannot help but wonder however, what our lives would have been like if my cancer had been detected early.

As you may be aware, mammograms and colorectal cancer screenings are some of the most effective ways that we could detect cancers at an early or pre-cancerous stage. I want to make sure that all Hawaii residents are able to have access to these screenings and thus believe that this funding will go a long way toward providing coverage for many in our state.

On behalf of Hawaii's cancer survivors, I wish to thank you for your support of SB398.

Mahalo,
Laura Evans
Lihue, Kauai

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Lauren Muraoka and I am writing to express my support for SB398. As a cancer survivor, I believe this bill will help to ensure that so many other Hawaii residents are able to avoid the pain and suffering caused by cancer.

When I was seven months old I was diagnosed with a type of cancer, Neuroblastoma. Since I was so young I thankfully don't remember the actual treatments that I went through. However, I do remember all the yearly check-ups and visits with my oncologists and my first summer camp that the American Cancer Society put on for cancer patients and survivors-Camp Anuenue. It was here that I truly got to see the realities of what some of these patients, kids themselves, had to go through to make sure they were healthy enough to participate in activities.

I was so inspired by their love for life and their determination to fight and beat cancer. As I've gotten older, I've been able to appreciate the friendships that I've developed as a result of our shared experienced with cancer. I also remember, and hold close to my heart, the memory of all of those that I've met that have lost their fight against cancer. It is in the memory of those friends that I support this bill.

I urge you to support this bill. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Lauren Muraoka

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Leon Castonguay and I am writing to express my support for SB398. I witnessed my mother's fight against cancer and I want to make sure others undergo early detection to help avoid the trauma my mom went through.

When I first learned about my mom's diagnosis, I also found out that it spread through much of her body, including her brain. She was too old to go through cancer treatment, having been in her early 80's. I learned that she never had undergone any type of cancer screening. The doctor said if she had, the outcome would have been very different. For over a year, my mom remained in intensive caregiving from the family. Much of this could have been avoided with early screening and detection.

This bill will help ensure that we fight against colorectal cancer, the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S., by providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program. It will help to ensure that we reach under screened communities and also provide coverage for colorectal cancer screenings to those who need it the most.

I wish to thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,
Leon Castonguay

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Lillian Kehau Matsumoto

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

I am writing to express my support for SB398. As a cancer survivor, I know how important early detection and cancer screenings are toward successfully fighting cancer.

My very good friend, Jan, had been diagnosed with stage four colorectal cancer. She encountered heavy chemo treatments and through all of this, knowingly had to get her affairs in order due to her limited time left. Her main concern was the family and expressed that her family get screened for colon cancer since her father passed from this disease and her diagnosis. Her efforts encouraged her two brothers to get screened, and one brother had several polyps removed, saving his life.

Her faith and positive attitude carried her to think and care about her family and not dwell upon herself or her lifestyle changes that had to be made. In her memory and in memory of all of those who have been impacted by cancer, I implore you to support this bill. This bill will help ensure that we fight against colorectal cancer, the second deadliest form of cancer in the U.S., by providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mahalo,
Lillian Kehau Matsumoto

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Penny Young

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Penny Young and I am writing to express my support for SB398. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward saving the lives of Hawaii residents by promoting early screening of colorectal cancer.

Cancer does not discriminate by age or race. Each year, close to 750 Hawaii residents will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. In Kauai where I reside, 40 Kauaians will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer annually. This suffering and loss could be prevented by promoting colorectal cancer screening awareness and by providing screenings for those that need it the most.

Senate Bill 398, Relating to Cancer is a viable solution that will help to save the lives of Kauaians and Hawaii residents as a whole by promoting early detection and screening methods for colorectal cancer. Screening helps detect cancer at an earlier stage, when treatment is most effective. Five-year survival rates for colorectal cancer at a localized stage are 90 percent, with 5-year survival rates decreasing to 13 percent for more distant stages.

On behalf of Hawaii's cancer survivors, I wish to thank you for your anticipated support of SB398.

Sincerely,
Penny Young
Lihue, Kauai

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Uri Martos

RE: SB398, RELATING TO CANCER

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Uri Martos and I am writing to express my support for SB398. As a recent cancer survivor I can certainly tell you that I would not be here today if it wasn't for an early detection screening.

About 20 years ago my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Luckily, she survived and her experience generated an awareness in me about my own health. Because of her diagnosis and my proactive approach to my personal health, I was able to start my mammogram screenings at the age of 35. It was after my second mammogram when I was 36 that my breast cancer was discovered. I consider myself extremely blessed to have found my cancer at the earliest possible stage, but for so many I know that may not be the case.

As you may be aware, mammograms and colorectal cancer screenings are some of the most effective ways that we could detect cancers at an early or pre-cancerous stage. This bill will help ensure that we fight against colorectal cancer by providing funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health for a colorectal cancer screening and awareness program. It will help to ensure that we reach under screened communities and also provide coverage for colorectal cancer screenings to those who need it the most. In short, these dollars will help save lives!

On behalf of Hawaii's cancer survivors, I wish to thank you for your anticipated support of SB398.

Mahalo nui loa,
Uri Martos
Lawai, Kauai