



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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LATE

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR No. 0140

**DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER AS CANCER SCREEN WEEK
TO URGE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII TO TALK WITH THEIR HEALTHCARE
PROVIDER ABOUT APPROPRIATE SCREENINGS FOR PREVENTION AND
EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 21, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Concurrent
3 Resolution (HCR) No. 0140 designating the first week of December as Cancer Screen Week to
4 urge the people of Hawaii to talk with their healthcare providers about appropriate screenings for
5 prevention and early detection of cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention, screening regularly increases the probability of finding certain cancers early, when
7 treatment is likely to be more effective.¹ In the last year, approximately 600,000 people were
8 expected to die from cancer, yet many of those lives could have been saved through earlier
9 detection.² A public health initiative such as Cancer Screen Week will provide an opportunity to
10 raise awareness and encourage people in the state to get recommended screenings.

11 Screening is effective in identifying some types of cancers in early, often highly treatable
12 stages including: breast cancer (using mammography); cervical cancer (using Pap alone or

¹ Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cancer Prevention and Control, Cancer Screening Test.
<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/prevention/screening.htm>, downloaded 3-20-2018.

² Source: American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2018. Available at:
<https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2018/cancer-facts-and-figures-2018.pdf>

1 combined Pap test and HPV test); and colorectal cancer (using stool-based testing,
2 sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy). Current screening rates for breast, cervical, and colorectal
3 cancer rates in Hawaii remain well-below the nationally recommended Healthy People 2020
4 targets. Increasing cancer screening rates for residents of Hawaii is a priority for both CDC
5 funded programs, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) and Hawaii
6 Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (HCCCP) in the DOH. The BCCCP provides critical
7 screening and early detection services to high risk, uninsured and underinsured, rarely or never
8 screened women between the ages of 50-64. The HCCCP convenes and supports the Hawaii
9 Comprehensive Cancer Coalition's (HCCC) efforts to reduce morbidity and mortality of breast,
10 cervical, and colorectal cancer through screening and early detection. These priorities are in the
11 Hawaii State Cancer Plan 2016 – 2020. The DOH supports HCR0140 to designate the first week
12 of December as Cancer Screen Week.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, March 21, 2018; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140, DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER AS CANCER SCREEN WEEK TO URGE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII TO TALK WITH THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ABOUT APPROPRIATE SCREENINGS FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER.

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Concurrent Resolution No. 140.

The resolution, as received by your Committee, would express the Legislature's intention that:

- (1) In 2018, and annually thereafter, the first week of December be designated as Cancer Screen Week in Hawaii; and
- (2) All citizens of Hawaii be encouraged to visit cancerscreenweek.org for cancer screening resources and talk to their healthcare providers about their risk factors for all cancer types, including breast, cervical, colon, lung, prostate, and skin cancers, and recommended screening options.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

According to the National Cancer Institute, in 2017, an estimated 1,688,780 people in the United States were diagnosed with cancer, and 600,920 will die of cancer. Estimates of the premature deaths that could have been avoided through screening vary from 3% to 35%, depending on a variety of assumptions. Beyond the potential for avoiding death, screening may reduce cancer morbidity since treatment for earlier-stage cancers is often less aggressive than that for more advanced-stage cancers.

Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution No. 140
Wednesday, March 21, 2018; 8:30 a.m.
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Community Health Centers serve on the front line providing desperately needed primary care for Hawaii's underprivileged communities. The HPCA welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Department of Health, the American Cancer Society, and all stakeholders to expand screening for cancer. Ultimately, such efforts will promote a healthier and happier population.

Accordingly, we **SUPPORT** this measure and urge your favorable consideration.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
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www.acscan.org

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HCR 140 – DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER AS CANCER SCREEN WEEK TO URGE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII TO TALK WITH THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ABOUT APPROPRIATE SCREENINGS FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF 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 HCR 140, which designates the first week in December as Cancer Screen Week.

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.

Cancer Screen Week is a public health initiative to elevate public awareness and foster understanding of the potentially lifesaving benefits of cancer screening. This nationwide initiative started in 2017, with a collaborative effort to drive action around cancer screening. It will take place annually in the first week of December each year. The initiative, as well as materials for employers, insurers, and individuals can be found at <http://www.cancerscreenweek.org>.

We can all raise awareness and help to reduce cancer mortality for some of the most common and deadly cancers in the United States. That's why each of us must do all we can to promote the power of cancer screening, and Cancer Screen Week is the catalyst for action effort that will continue each year with the goal of saving more lives through raising awareness and encouraging people to get recommended screenings.

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