



**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018; 2:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**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 Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, 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](http://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.

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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  
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
808.432.9149  
[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

House Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair  
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, 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 matter.

House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

RE: HCR140, 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.

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Uri Martos, and I am writing to express my support for HCR140, which would designate the first week of December as cancer screening week.

As a recent breast cancer survivor, I can tell you first hand how important early detection and screening is. According to the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rates for those individuals diagnosed with breast cancer in its early stages are anywhere from 93-100% compared to the five-year survival rates of 72% of individuals diagnosed with stage-3 breast cancer and 22% of individuals diagnosed with stage-4 breast cancer.

HCR140 will help to promote a positive dialogue around the importance of early detection for breast cancer. I believe that with your help in moving this concurrent resolution forward, we can truly make the first week of December one that can help save so many Hawaii residents from having to endure the pain and suffering caused by cancer.

I urge you to support HCR140. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Uri Martos

House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

RE: HCR140, 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.

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Dawn Eicher, and I am writing to express my support for HCR140, which would designate the first week of December as cancer screening week.

The importance of early detection and screening is crucial, and I know that as a Stage IV cancer survivor. I was diagnosed at the early age of 36 with metastatic colon cancer. I suffered through years of grueling treatments during the worst days of my life. And I continue to undergo colonoscopies to ensure that my cancer does not come back.

We need to ensure that other Hawaii residents are able to catch a cancer diagnosis in its earliest stages to avoid the worst aspects of treatment. HCR140 will help to promote a positive dialogue around the importance of early detection and screening.

I urge you to support HCR140. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Dawn Eicher

House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

RE: HCR140, 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.

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is James Gauer, and I am writing to express my support for HCR140, which would designate the first week of December as cancer screening week.

The importance of early detection and screening is crucial, and can mean the difference between a 90-95% survival rate for a cancer diagnosis and a 15-20% survival rate. According to the American Cancer Society, screening increases the chances of catching certain cancers early, when they are most likely to be treated successfully. In the last year, approximately 600,000 people were expected to die from cancer, yet many of those lives could have been saved through earlier detection.

We need to ensure that Hawaii residents are able to catch a cancer diagnosis in its earliest stages to avoid the worst aspects of treatment. HCR140 will help to promote a positive dialogue around the importance of early detection and screening. The first week of December is strategic because it prepares people to set new year's goals in the context of a spirit of giving, hope, and celebration.

I urge you to support HCR140. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,

James Gauer

University of Hawaii at Manoa Student

Resident of Moanalua/Salt Lake

House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

RE: HCR140, 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.

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and Other Members of this  
Committee,

My name is Katie Post, and I am writing to express my support for HCR140, which  
would designate the first week of December as cancer screening week.

In April, 2013 I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. I went through all of the treatment,  
scared, & am now in remission. When I moved to Hawaii to attend Pharmacy School, I  
became part of my local cancer support group, Malama Ka Pili Pa'a. In my support  
group I have made many friends, and seen many people suffer from their cancer. In all  
incidence of cancer however, my recommendation to my peers is always the same:  
early detection and screening is key.

According to the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rates for those  
individuals diagnosed with breast cancer in its early stages are anywhere from 93-  
100% compared to the five-year survival rates of 72% of individuals diagnosed with  
stage-3 breast cancer and 22% of individuals diagnosed with stage-4 breast cancer.

HCR140 will help to promote a positive dialogue around the importance of early  
detection for breast cancer. I urge you to support HCR140. Thank you for the  
consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Katie Post

**LATE**

**HCR-140**

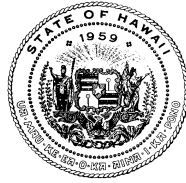
Submitted on: 4/3/2018 3:22:13 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	the Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:





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

**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 SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: April 4, 2018

Room Number: 325

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

**LATE**

**HCR-140**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 2:19:16 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: