



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR No. 0142**

**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**

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

Hearing Date: April 12, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Concurrent  
3 Resolution (SCR) No. 0142 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 (CDC), screening regularly increases the probability of finding certain cancers early,  
7 when treatment is likely to be more effective.<sup>1</sup> In the last year, approximately 600,000 people  
8 were 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 efforts to reduce morbidity and mortality of breast, cervical,  
10 and colorectal cancer through screening and early detection. These priorities are in the Hawaii  
11 State Cancer Plan 2016 – 2020. The DOH supports SCR0142 to designate the first week of  
12 December as Cancer Screen Week.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to provide 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 Health and Human Services  
Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**SCR 142 – 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 SCR 142, which designates the first week in December as Cancer Screen Week. While we are in full support of the cancer screen week proposal, we do feel that this resolution could be used to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118. We urge the committee to consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. A proposed HD 1 is attached.

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.

HCR 118 is a collaboration between ACS CAN and Kokua Mau, Hawaii's state wide palliative care and hospice organization. It is based on model legislation created by the Centers to Advance Palliative Care to establish palliative care advisory councils in each state to make recommendations and serve as a resource to evaluate actions to increase palliative care. The goal of HCR 118 is to provide the legislature with recommendations to advance palliative care specific to Hawaii and our unique and diverse communities.

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness - from point of diagnosis onward. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

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

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES IN HAWAII.

WHEREAS, palliative care specializes in the management of physical symptoms, including nausea, pain, fatigue, and shortness of breath, as well as the emotional and spiritual distress caused by serious, chronic, and/or terminal conditions; and

WHEREAS, palliative care is defined by the World Health Organization as an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that patients who had hospital-based palliative care visits spent less time in intensive care units and were less likely to be readmitted to the hospital after returning home; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, less than twenty-five percent of hospitals in the United States had a palliative care program, but by 2015, sixty-seven percent of hospitals in the country with fifty or more beds reported having palliative care teams; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network advocates for policies that improve the lives of cancer patients by making treatment of pain and other symptoms and coordination of patient care standard protocol throughout a patient's treatment for cancer, starting at the point of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, Kōkua Mau, Hawaii's hospice and palliative care organization, is a community benefit, nonprofit organization, composed of individual and organizational champions and supporters from hospitals, education, consumers, insurance, long-term care, and hospices; and

WHEREAS, efforts to increase the use and availability of palliative care services in Hawaii require public health care providers, advocates, and facilities to come together and discuss the challenges and issues faced by palliative care programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health, Kōkua Mau, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and other community partners are all committed to improving the quality of life through palliative care for people in Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a working group, with the assistance of Kōkua Mau and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, to examine palliative care services and develop recommendations to expand palliative care services in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to collaborate with hospice and palliative care organizations, healthcare associations, health care facilities, insurers, patient advocacy groups, and other interested public health groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to examine and identify:

- (1) The current state of palliative care services offered in Hawaii;
- (2) The capacity of current palliative care providers;
- (3) The geographic areas where significant gaps in palliative care services exist;
- (4) Opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders who are positioned to craft a strategy and plan for improving and expanding the

provision of high-quality palliative medicine and palliative care services in Hawaii;

- (5) The feasibility for financial support of a long-term expansion of palliative care services in Hawaii;
- (6) A plan for ongoing data gathering for purposes of monitoring and quality improvement of palliative care in Hawaii;
- (7) Engagement strategies for educating the public about palliative care and hospice care to empower people to make informed decisions about wishes for care when faced with a serious illness; and
- (8) Any other strategies that would improve palliative care services in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that subsequent to the submission of its report to the Legislature, the working group may convene annually or as necessary to discuss and update its findings and recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, and Director of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142 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.

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Pierce, and I serve as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. I would like to submit my testimony in support of SCR 142 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. While I am in full support of the cancer screen week proposal, I respectfully urge this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118. This resolution would be a great first step in addressing the current shortfalls in treating cancer patients and others suffering from chronic illness not only for their immediate condition but also treating the symptoms that arise as a result.

Palliative care involves treating the whole patient, not just their disease. Ensuring that someone's mental health is as closely monitored as their physical health or treating pain conditions that arise from the treatment of chronic illness can make all the difference in quality of life. It is not solely reserved for those who are at the end of their lives. Palliative care can improve health outcomes for all patients fighting life threatening or chronic illnesses.

Having seen many family members go through cancer treatments, I can attest that those who were fortunate enough to have doctors who fought for them to receive palliative care were far better prepared to fight their cancer battle. Treating the cancer alone didn't treat the pain, the shortness of breath, or the fragility of mental health that come along with facing a life threatening illness. Access to holistic palliative care helped give my mother the strength and piece of mind I truly believe allowed her to survive. Treating her lack of appetite, helping her regain physical strength, and caring for her mental state instead of just focusing on killing her cancer helped give her the motivation to fight.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. Give Hawaii the chance to improve quality of life for our loved ones fighting life threatening or chronic illnesses.

Mahalo,  
Molly Pierce

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR 142 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.

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alberto Rodriguez, and I am writing to express my support for SCR142. While I am in full support of the cancer screen week proposal, I respectfully urge this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

I have witnessed a loved one's fight against cancer and I want to make sure that others that go through this fight are able to access the holistic care provided by palliative care.

My aunty passed away from cancer and lacked access to palliative care services that would have allowed for a higher level of care for both herself and our family. I now want to make sure that we do everything we can to promote awareness about palliative care services in our state.

In 2014, my aunt was diagnosed with kidney cancer. At the time, she wasn't sure where to turn to and who we could talk to about the services and care as her disease progressed. We often were forced to travel two hours to see a doctor. The appointment was on a first-come/first-served basis. Long lines outside the doctor's office starting at 4 o'clock in the morning, waiting for the secretary to open the door at 8 o'clock and waiting for the doctor to arrive at 12 o'clock or later.

My aunt's health deteriorated quickly and we were a prisoner of the process and health access. She passed away in less than 6 months after diagnosis.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. This would allow for the formation of a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Alberto Rodriguez



Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR 142 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.

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chandra Quinlan, and I am writing to respectfully request that this resolution be amended by this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

As a breast cancer survivor, I have come to know and love so many fellow survivors who will greatly benefit from its passage.

As a Stage I Breast Cancer Survivor I consider myself very fortunate, but through my journey I have come to know and love many fellow survivors who are faced with the challenges of advanced stages of cancer oftentimes combined with other illnesses - diabetes, arthritis, kidney disease, etc. Many require more home health care and sadly palliative care treatment is no longer an option.

I recall a phone conversation a few months ago I had with "Rose" who's metastatic breast cancer had spread to her brain. After a horrific experience with gamma-radiation, she chose to end all treatment and opted for in home hospice.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. This would allow for the formation of a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases such as cancer and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Chandra Quinlan

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR 142 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.

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gay Okada, and I am writing to respectfully request that this resolution be amended by this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

Living in Kona, on the island of Hawaii, health care and palliative care is at the none existence level in some areas.

To form a palliative care work group would help my friends with rheumatoid arthritis and bone cancer. One friend with rheumatoid arthritis (severe) had moved to Kentucky to live with her brother and passed away already. We desperately need your help with this situation.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. This would allow for the formation of a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Gay Okada

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Jenny Hausler, and I am writing to respectfully request that this resolution be amended by this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

My sister Lucy was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer at 58 and passed away at age 63. During the course of her disease she suffered much pain and stress and at the end of her life, especially fear. Had coordinated palliative care been available at the time, her cancer journey and passing would have been eased so much.

Her one wish would be that no one would ever have to go through the pain and suffering she did. This is one of the main reasons I support the amended language for SCR142.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. This would allow for the formation of a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Jenny Hausler

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Katie Post, and I am writing to respectfully request that this resolution be amended by this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118. As a cancer survivor, I believe that all cancer patients should have access to palliative care.

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. One of my good friends, Paula, has unfortunately passed away. Paula's treatment was progressing well, but then hit a snag, was stopped and never resumed, so her cancer progressed.

Paula is now in Hospice care living out the rest of her days. Paula was able to use palliative care before entering hospice, which helped immensely. Palliative care should be available and more easy to access. Watching my friend die is very painful. She is not the only one going through this. Please consider this when deciding whether to support this bill.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Mahalo,  
Katie Post

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

I have witnessed many loved ones fight against chronic diseases like cancer and diabetes and I want to make sure that others who go through this fight are able to access the holistic care provided by palliative care. As such, I am asking this committee to consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session.

Both of my great-grandmothers died of a chronic disease. One of Alzheimers, and the other of cancer. Their names were violet & Louise. During one of the most trying times for the my family, I believed that we lacked palliative care opportunities, which could have greatly helped us. That is why, today, I want to promote awareness about palliative care services in Hawaii.

When both of my great-grandmothers got diagnosed, although it was at separate times, the doctors came to the consensus: That there wasn't much we could do. Not having dealt with instances like this before, we were left clueless. Luckily, we had each other, but that is all we had, and we could have greatly benefited from palliative care & all the wonderful services they have to offer.

As one could assume, their deaths came fast and our family had trouble adjusting. At such a vulnerable time for any family, it is essential to provide/offer services to our community & their families. SCR142, under the suggested amendments pulled from HCR118, would form a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

I urge you to support SCR142. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Kaylee Decambra

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Logan Kostur, and I am asking this committee to consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. This bill represents a clinically meaningful step for patients as they move through the final stage of their life.

As a healthcare provider working on the Big Island I have personally witnessed the impact that palliative care has on patients and their families. Patients who can afford things like hospice care, specialty medications, or nursing visits place much less burden on their families and pass on with much more dignity than their counterparts who cannot afford what is now considered specialized care.

Having a palliative care program in Hawaii truly would set in stone it as the Aloha state, where families and patients are treated with dignity and respect.

Please consider inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142 to keep the discussion of palliative care alive in the 2018 session. This palliative care workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Logan Kostur

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Misty Figuera, and I'd like to urge this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

As a young twenty-one-year-old student who has a chronic disease and has been caregiver for the father figure in my life who has cancer, I see the benefits of Palliative care clearly.

Life doesn't stop when cancer and chronic illness comes knocking on the door. Bills still need to be paid, children still have volleyball games that need to be attended, and term papers still need to be written by a due date. Life is stressful in the first place – being sick only makes it worse. For those of us with busy schedules struggling to make it financially, being sick is just not the icing of the top of stress made cake; Suddenly, your schedule becomes filled by trying to find the write doctors, paying to see the wrong ones, and being exhausted physically and mentally. This is why palliative care is so important.

Palliative care is about improving life for cancer patients and those who live with chronic illnesses. When you are given the news that you are very sick, your life changes. Life becomes harder – for you AND especially your loved ones – after all, they are the ones who watch over you and take care of you. It becomes easy to give up to want to die, because that would be easier.

Palliative care is not only needed and extremely beneficial, but it is NECESSARY. It makes life easier, better, and makes it enjoyable again. What makes Hawaii a great state is the aloha we share – through our daily interactions, through giving our time, and through palliative care. By inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142, this resolution would form a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Misty Figuera

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Uri Martos, and I'd like to urge this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

As a recent breast cancer survivor, I can tell you first hand how important palliative care is. With the proposed amendments, SCR142 will make palliative care more available to people like me who need this special care to help them through their health conditions.

Currently there are no palliative care groups who bring the industry together to work on issues & trainings concerning palliative care.

Palliative care was essential to my success in completing treatment with a more positive state of mind. The special care that I received made such a difference and I want all cancer & those suffering chronic illnesses to also have this special care.

By inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142, this resolution would form a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

I urge you to support the proposed amendments for SCR142. Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Uri Martos



House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, 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 Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Other Members of this Committee,

My name is Valerie Toro, and I am writing to respectfully request that this resolution be amended by this committee to advance palliative care and the working group proposal from HCR 118.

I have personally witnessed loved ones and close friends battle with cancer and I am hoping for more awareness and assistance to help improve the quality of life for patients to allow them to focus on reliving (?) the path, stress and symptoms that may lead to other chronic diseases such as chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, kidney failure, etc.

My father was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma almost 30 years ago. This was the first time I ever was introduced to cancer. Watching his health fail and at the same time, trying to act as if he was fine, was very difficult. My father always raised us to be part of the solution.

By inserting the contents of HCR 118 into SCR 142, SCR 142 would form a workgroup that would examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and would aim to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges. It would help to focus palliative care coverage on chronic diseases such as Alzheimer's and with that, incorporate new stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Valerie Toro



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Thursday, April 12, 2018; 109:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: SUPPORTING SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 142, 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** Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 142.

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.

**Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 142**  
**Thursday, April 12, 2018; 10:00 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.

April 10, 2018

Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, Relating to Cancer

Dear Representative Mizuno and other members of the committee,

My name is Jeannette Koiwane and I currently serve as the Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, Hawaii’s Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. I am writing to ask you to insert the language from HCR118 into SCR 142 thereby adding the creation of the palliative care task force into this Resolution. This would allow the discussion to continue of how to provide palliative care and the excellent support it represents for those with serious illness in our community. This has already passed your committee in the House but unfortunately was not heard again in either the House or the Senate.

Kōkua Mau has worked with American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN) over the last year on this resolution and we look forward to working together, along with the Department of Health, to convene and carry out the work group. Kōkua Mau is named in the resolution and we are very ready to take on these responsibilities.

We believe that Palliative Care offers tremendous opportunities for people facing serious illness and their loved ones to reduce their unnecessary suffering and find the support and care they need. Palliative care is a team approach that helps the person facing serious illness and their loved ones with a team of professionals to manage the physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering that they may be facing. Doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and other professionals provide an additional level of support that can be provided alongside curative treatments or be the focus of care. Hospice is a kind of palliative care that is offered to people in the last six months of life who have decided to forgo life-prolonging or curative treatments.

Palliative care has grown over the last decade in Hawaii and is now offered in most but not all of our hospitals. In-home palliative care is currently being offered through all of our hospices, primarily because of a Concurrent Care or Supportive Care benefit offered by UHA and HMSA. However these benefits are limited. We need to find ways to offer more palliative care to people in settings outside of the hospital, including long-term care, and this work group will explore how palliative care is currently working and how to expand palliative care offerings.

Kōkua Mau is a network of committed organizations and individuals from across Hawaii. ([www.kokuamau.org](http://www.kokuamau.org)) Over the past 18 years, Kōkua Mau has brought to the forefront meaningful, thoughtful and sensitive conversations on improving care and support for



**KŌKUA MAU**

**“Continuous Care”**

**Hawai‘i Hospice and Palliative  
Care Organization**

those with serious illness. We are Hawaii’s trusted resource for accurate information on advance care planning as well as hospice and palliative care.

As an organization and network, our goal is to create a community in which these thoughtful, compassionate conversations are widespread. We are fostering a movement to change social norms in Hawaii regarding conversations and decisions around serious illness and end-of-life care, and to provide all individuals and communities with greater choice and control regarding their quality of life. We do not focus on the end of life, but rather the quality of life. Palliative and Hospice Care are important parts of the continuum of care and we see the need to increase how and where that care is offered.

I urge you to support SCR142. I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I am currently in California at a Palliative Care Conference but Cory Chun from the American Cancer Society will be attending the hearing to answer any questions.

Mahalo,

  
Jeannette Kojane, MPH  
Executive Director



**St. Francis**

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII  
A Legacy of Caring for Hawaii's People

**April 12, 2018 at 10:00 A. M.  
Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair John Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

From: Gary Simon *Gary Simon*  
Director of Corporate Affairs and Advocacy  
St. Francis Healthcare System

Re: **SCR 142, Designating the first week of December as Cancer Screen Week to urge the people of Hawaii to talk with their healthcare providers about the appropriate screenings for prevention and early detection of cancer.**

I am Gary Simon, Director of Corporate Affairs and Advocacy for St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii.

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of St. Francis Healthcare System.

We request that the language from HCR118 into SCR 142 thereby adding the creation of the palliative care task force into this Resolution. The added language will allow discussions to continue on how to provide palliative care and the excellent support it represents for those with serious illness in our community.

HCR 118 has passed your committee in the House, but, unfortunately, was not heard by the House Finance Committee or by the Senate.

Palliative Care offers tremendous opportunities for people facing serious illness and their loved ones to reduce their unnecessary suffering and find the support and care they need. Palliative care is a team approach that helps the person facing serious illness and their loved ones with a team of professionals to manage the physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering that they may be facing. Doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and other professionals provide an additional level of support that can be provided alongside curative treatments or be the focus of care. Hospice is a kind of palliative care that is offered to people in the last six months of life who have decided to forgo life-prolonging or curative treatments.

Palliative care has grown over the last decade in Hawaii and is now offered in most but not all of our hospitals. In-home palliative care is currently being offered through all of our hospices, primarily because of a Concurrent Care or Supportive Care benefit offered by UHA and HMSA. However, these benefits are limited. We need to find ways to offer more palliative care to people in settings outside of the hospital, including long-term care. This work group will explore how palliative care is currently working and how to expand palliative care offerings.

We strongly urge you to insert the language from **HCR 118** into **SCR 142** and to support that revised version and to recommend its passage.

Thank you for seriously considering our request.

**SCR-142**

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 11:12:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; to the Honorable Bertrand Kobayahsi, Vice Chair; and the Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR142** relating to Cancer Screen Week.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SCR142** and strongly supports its passage.

**SCR142** is in accord with the Democratic Platform as it designates the first week of December as Cancer Screen Week and encourages citizens of Hawaii to seek appropriate cancer screenings.

The DPH Platform states that: "Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life." (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 361-364 (2016)).

We also support the development of empirically validated prevention programs targeted at major public health issues. (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 368-369 (2016)).

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).



Given that **SCR142** designates the first week of December as Cancer Screen Week and encourages citizens of Hawaii to seek appropriate cancer screenings, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to strongly support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/tel.: (808) 258-8889

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House Committee on Health & Human Services  
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi Vice Chair

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 142  
RELATING TO CANCER SCREENING**  
Hearing: April 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda S. Ho, CEO of Hospice of Hilo now doing business under the tradename Hawai'i Care Choices. Our organization has served the palliative, hospice and bereavement needs of the east and south portions of Hawai'i County since 1983.

We are grateful for and are in strong support of the Cancer Action Network's resolution to shine a spotlight on the need for cancer screening and the expansion of palliative care services statewide. I respectfully ask the Committee to insert language from HCR 118 into SCR 142 for the creation of a palliative care task force. Studies have shown that, across a range of serious illnesses (cancer, dementia, end-stage renal disease, cardiopulmonary failure), palliative care services improve patients' symptoms and the quality of end of life care, allow patients to avoid hospitalization and to remain safely and adequately cared for at home, lead to better patient and family satisfaction, and significantly reduce prolonged grief and post-traumatic stress disorder among bereaved family members.

We can attest to the power of palliative care through the example of our community-based palliative care program (Kupu Care) which continues to build capacity in large part due to State GIA support (with a current request for GIA funding of \$300,000 for 2018/19 year). In the past 18 months of service, the demand for our program has grown. Data from the second year of service, for Congestive Heart Failure and Cancer patients, showed a **79% overall reduction in ER visits, a 78% overall decrease in hospital admission rates, and a 75% overall decrease in ICU days**, when compared to experience before palliative care services. Additionally, our collaboration with East Hawaii Regional Health System to follow patients with complex care needs for 30 days from hospital discharge with the goal of reducing the 30-day readmission rate is proving successful.

**As the Nation and the state of Hawai'i look at population health, healthcare reform and physician payment reform for high-cost high need individuals – we at Hawai'i Care Choices can confirm that the models and cost-savings found in palliative care are the solutions for the future.**

Designating a cancer screen week in December and establishing a palliative care task force to develop strategies to improve palliative care services in Hawaii are essential steps to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony in support of SCR 142 with the addition of language from HCR 118 relating to palliative care.

Respectfully,  
Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN  
Chief Executive Officer

April 11, 2018

Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SCR142, Relating to Cancer

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and esteemed Committee on Health and Human Services members,

My name is Daniel Fischberg and I am a medical specialist in palliative medicine, practicing full-time in Hawaii. I am writing to ask you to insert the language from HCR118 into SCR 142 thereby adding the creation of the palliative care task force into this Resolution. This would allow the discussion to continue of how to provide palliative care and the excellent support it represents for those with serious illness in our community. This has already passed your committee in the House but unfortunately was not heard again in either the House or the Senate.

Palliative Care offers tremendous opportunities for people facing serious illness and their loved ones to reduce their unnecessary suffering and find the support and care they need. Palliative care is a team approach that helps the person facing serious illness and their loved ones with a team of professionals to manage the physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering that they may be facing. Doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and other professionals provide an additional level of support that can be provided alongside curative treatments or be the focus of care. Hospice is a kind of palliative care that is offered to people in the last six months of life who have decided to forgo life-prolonging or curative treatments.

Palliative care has grown over the last decade in Hawaii and is now offered in most but not all of our hospitals. In-home palliative care is currently being offered through all of our hospices, primarily because of a Concurrent Care or Supportive Care benefit offered by UHA and HMSA. However these benefits are limited. We need to find ways to offer more palliative care to people in settings outside of the hospital, including long-term care, and this work group will explore how palliative care is currently working and how to expand palliative care offerings.

My fellow specialists in hospice and palliative medicine share a goal to develop a community in which thoughtful, compassionate conversations are widespread. We are fostering a movement to change social norms in Hawaii regarding conversations and decisions around serious illness and end-of-life care, and to provide all individuals and communities with greater choice and control regarding their quality of life. We do not focus on the end of life, but rather the quality of life. Palliative and Hospice Care are important parts of the continuum of care and we see the need to increase how and where that care is offered.

I urge you to support SCR142. I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Daniel Fischberg, MD, PhD, FAAHPM  
Kailua, HI