

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1449
RELATING TO LUNG CANCER**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 329
& Videoconference

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 2023-2024 for the early lung cancer screening task force established pursuant to
4 Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022.

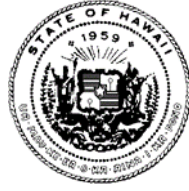
5 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports House Bill 1449 (H.B. 1449) that amends Act 162,
6 SLH 2022, to remove the sunset date for the early lung cancer screening task force and extend
7 the date for the task force to submit reports to the legislature. The task force shall meet in
8 perpetuity as is needed to reduce the mortality and morbidity rates associated with lung cancer in
9 Hawaii.

10 In January 2023, the DOH submitted an interim report to the Legislature noting that
11 convening of the early lung cancer screening task force had been delayed. The additional time
12 provided by H.B. 1449 will ensure that the task force can effectively carry out the activities in
13 Act 162. Increasing lung cancer screening rates and reducing cancer morbidity and mortality is a
14 key priority of the DOH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and Hawaii Cancer Plan 2030.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1449](#) – RELATING TO LUNG CANCER.

Hearing: February 15, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, provides comments, and defers to the Department of Health.

PURPOSE: This bill amends Act 162, SLH 2022, to remove the sunset date for the early lung cancer screening task force and extend the date for the task force to submit reports to the legislature. Appropriates funds.

The Department supports efforts to increase cancer screening and prevention efforts. Lung and bronchus cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in men and women in Hawaii. The United States Preventive Services Task Force has found that the early detection and treatment of lung cancer improves the 5-year survival rate for smokers and former smokers. A task force on early lung cancer screening can propose opportunities to improve early screening. Currently, a representative from the DHS Med-QUEST Division participates in the Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Coalition and will likely participate in this lung cancer screening task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Loic Le Marchand, MD, PhD

Associate Director for Community Outreach & Engagement, and Population Sciences

And

Naoto T. Ueno MD, PhD, Director

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

And

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, Acting Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1449 – RELATING TO LUNG CANCER

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center and the John A. Burns School of Medicine strongly supports HB 1449, which removes the sunset date for the early lung cancer screening task force and extends the date for the task force to submit reports to the legislature and ensures the task force can meet in perpetuity to reduce the impact lung cancer has on our population and especially in those suffering disproportionate morbidity and mortality.

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer for men and women in the state. The American Lung Association's State of Lung Cancer Report in Hawai'i for 2021 places Hawai'i dead last in early diagnosis of lung cancer. According to the American Lung Association, in Hawai'i, 20% of cases are caught at an early stage, which is significantly lower than the national rate of 26%. University of Hawai'i Cancer Center epidemiologists have shown that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders develop lung cancer at an earlier age and with lower lifetime exposure to cigarettes, compared to Whites and Asian Americans. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2022, more people will die of lung cancer in Hawai'i than breast, liver, or prostate cancer combined.

Sixty percent of new cases now occur in former smokers, pointing to the importance of screening to diagnose these cancers early and improve survival. Low-dose computerized tomography has been shown in 2011 to lower lung cancer mortality by 20% when used with high-risk patients. Further, in Hawai'i, 3% of those at high risk were

screened, which was significantly lower than the national rate of 6%. Our screening rate ranks 43rd among all states. We must do all we can to make sure that all people at high risk of lung cancer are screened early so that they are offered appropriate treatment options, including less invasive treatments of early lung cancer that allow for a sooner return to function and improved survival rates.

The role of the proposed task force remains crucial in identifying barriers to early lung cancer screening and the contributors to lung cancer disparities observed among ethnic and racial populations in Hawai'i, recommending the steps and resources necessary to increase lung cancer screening in Hawai'i, recommending any additional research that is needed, and providing a report to the legislature with possible policies the state can adopt. The task force is required to "discuss cultural and social barriers associated with lung cancer screening", and to develop a work plan. In order to develop, then implement a coordinated and comprehensive early lung cancer screening program, with appropriate cultural tailoring that addresses other barriers to early detection and/or treatment, the task force will require significant community input throughout the process and especially from those populations at the highest risk. Larger health ecosystem factors, including access to care, seamless coordination between primary care and specialists and between specialists (i.e., lung or medical cancer specialists to thoracic surgeons), reduced barriers to ordering the screening CT in patients recommended for screening (according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national coverage determination), reduced barriers to obtaining additional tests for proper staging (to determine the best treatment plan), timely referrals and timely intervention must be part of this work plan development. To do this well and result in meaningful outcomes for the state and high-risk populations, this careful work requires more time than five months (to July 31, 2023).

The UH Cancer Center has made increasing early lung cancer screening in Hawai'i one of its research and community outreach priorities and stands ready to assist the taskforce in any role that the Legislature deems appropriate. Once a comprehensive Hawai'i plan for lung cancer screening is adopted, and during the course of developing the plan, JABSOM will be instrumental in educating practicing physicians (and those in training) about the key strategies, partnerships, and policies.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

February 15, 2023 – 8:30 am – Conference Room 329

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1449, Relating to Lung Cancer

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education, and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association in Hawai‘i and across the nation is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association strongly supports House Bill 2391, relating to health. This bill amends Act 162, SLH 2022, removing the sunset date for the early lung cancer screening task force, extends the date for the task force to submit reports to the legislature, and appropriates funds for the work of the task force.

In 2019, there were approximately 37,500 people in Hawai‘i who met the criteria of the U.S. Preventive Taskforce (USPST) guidelines for being at high risk for lung cancer. Of those people, only 1,400 of them were screened using a low-dose CT scan of their lungs. That is less than 4% of the eligible population, even though the USPST guide recommends these high-risk individuals receive lung cancer screening every year. In 2020, the percent of people at high risk for lung cancer who were screened was lower than 3%.

According to the American Lung Association’s 2022 State of Lung Cancer report, the low levels of CT scans have contributed to Hawai‘i being last in the nation for early detection of lung cancer. Hawai‘i also has one of the lowest 5-year survival rates for lung cancer. Of the nearly 1000 people that are expected to be diagnosed with lung cancer in Hawai‘i in 2023, more than half of them are expected to die from the disease. These are more cancer deaths than those from breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer combined.

The burden does not fall equally amongst Hawai‘i’s populations. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have higher rates of lung cancer than other groups in Hawai‘i. In fact, the State of Lung Cancer Report noted that Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i have an over 200% higher incidence rate of new lung cancer cases than other Indigenous populations across the nation, one of the highest rates of lung cancer for any group. Based on new research, in March of 2021, the USPTF expanded its recommendation for screening to include a larger age range and more current and former smokers. This will dramatically increase the number of people of color considered at high risk for lung cancer.

Although the legislature originally intended the taskforce to be in place for one year, the work of the taskforce is needed and hasn’t yet started. The taskforce proposed in this bill will help bring together stakeholders who can make a difference in increasing lung cancer screening in the state. The taskforce will include representatives from state agencies, stakeholders, advocates, healthcare professionals, health systems, and insurers to do review all available research; conduct or initiate new studies as it deems necessary; and create a public awareness campaign to inform Hawai‘i residents about early lung cancer screening.

The taskforce will also submit a report to the legislature of its findings and recommendations. The report will also address cultural and social barriers associated with completing lung cancer screening and will create a work plan that identifies needed steps for the next five years to increase lung cancer screening in the State.

The loss associated with lung cancer is too much for our state to bare. The assemblance of the taskforce proposed in HB 1449 is the first step towards reducing the burden of lung cancer on our state and on our most vulnerable populations. We urge you to please support and pass HB 1449.



Pedro Haro
Executive Director
American Lung Association in Hawai'i
pedro.haro@lung.org



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1449, RELATING TO LUNG CANCER.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 Bill No. 1449, RELATING TO LUNG CANCER.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved 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 healthcare.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force (Task Force) more time to submit reports to the Legislature and ensure that the Task Force can meet in perpetuity as needed to address and reduce the impact lung cancer has on the State's diverse population.

In an article dated November 16, 2021, Associated Press reported that Hawaii ranks last in the nation for the early diagnosis of lung cancer, and that just 19% of lung cancer cases in Hawaii are diagnosed early, compared to 24.5% nationally. (See, "Hawaii ranks last for early diagnosis of lung cancer", AP News, November 16, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/health-hawaii-honolulu-cancer-lung-cancer-b3efbb29feec279b042cf2e4d7582f09>)

Community Health Centers serve on the front line providing desperately needed primary care for Hawaii's underprivileged communities throughout the State. Because our members are embedded in some of the most remote and isolated areas on all islands, the HPCA is uniquely constituted to provide insight and share information with the Task Force. Because of this, the HPCA welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Department of Health and all stakeholders

Testimony on House Bill No. 1449
Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 8:30 a.m.
Page 2

The HPCA greatly appreciates inclusion to the Task Force and stands committed to serving for this cause.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



February 12, 2023

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1449 Relating to Lung Cancer

Hrg: 15 Feb 2023, 8:30AM, House Conference room 329 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **supportive testimony for House Bill 1449, relating to lung cancer**. This bill extends the work of the early lung cancer screening task force, which brings the community together to determine what steps are needed to increase Hawai'i's very low rate of early lung cancer screening.

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer for men and women in the state. The American Lung Association's State of Lung Cancer Report in Hawai'i for 2022 places Hawai'i dead last in early diagnosis of lung cancer. Early diagnosis gives lung cancer patients a better chance of survival and more affordable and effective treatment options. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2023, more people will die of lung cancer in Hawai'i than breast, liver, or prostate cancer combined.

The task force proposed in this bill will take on the important duty of researching and recommending the steps and resources necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawai'i, conducting any additional research that is needed, and providing a report to the legislature with possible policies the state can adopt. This task force will also create a public awareness campaign to inform people lung cancer screening. It is particularly important to extend the timeline and funding of this task force because it was not able to meet in 2022.

The burden of lung cancer is too high to bear. We must do all we can to make sure that all people at high risk of lung cancer are screened early so that they are allowed all the treatment options available. **We strongly support HB 1449** and respectfully ask that you pass this measure to ensure we are doing all we can to help people with lung cancer get an early diagnosis and another chance at life.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiiomedicalassociation.org

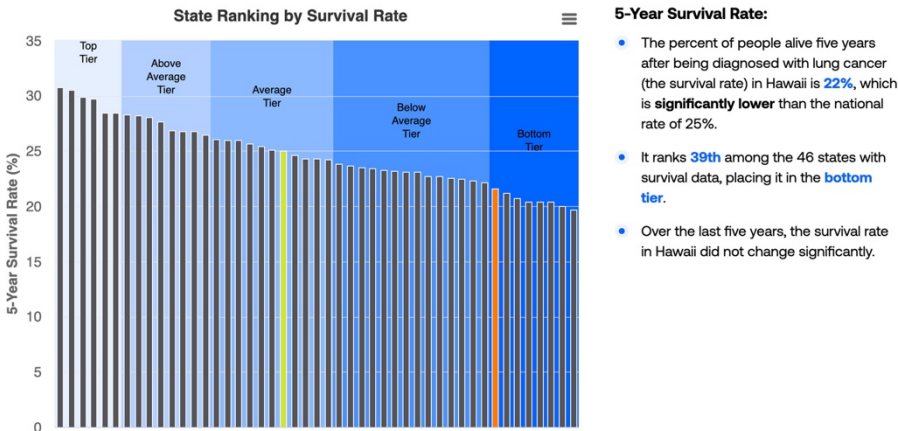
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Date: February 15, 2023
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Beth England MD, Co-Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: HB 1449 Relating to Lung Cancer Position: Support

This measure will extend the date for the lung cancer screening task force to submit reports to the legislature and appropriate funds.

In Hawaii, only 19% of new lung cancer cases are diagnosed at an early stage, a rate notably lower than the national average of 24%. This metric has not changed significantly in the last 5 years. Currently, Hawaii ranks 39th among the 46 states with survival data, placing it in the bottom tier (see figure below).



Early detection of lung cancer increases survival and cure rates. However, screening must be performed on the appropriate high-risk population to be effective in reducing mortality. The Hawaii Task Force focuses on the challenges of screening access and healthcare literacy and includes patient advocates, academic institutions, health systems, providers and county and state government. HMA supports the further appropriation of funds for this task force as needed for centralized collaboration, research and public education efforts toward effective lung cancer screening.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

(continued)

2023 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Angela M. Pratt, MD, President • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President Elect • Michael Champion, MD, Immediate Past President
Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2023 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, Chair • Beth England, MD, Co-Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

1. American Lung Association. State of Lung Cancer. <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/hawaii>
2. Gallo M et al. Lung Cancer Screening: A Necessary Tool Not Accessible for the Whole Population. J. Am. Coll. Radiol. [https://www.jacr.org/article/S1546-1440\(21\)00945-5/fulltext](https://www.jacr.org/article/S1546-1440(21)00945-5/fulltext)

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2023 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, Chair • Beth England, MD, Co-Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 8:30 AM

RE: **HB1449 Relating to Lung Cancer - Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1449**. This measure amends Act 162 by removing the sunset date for the early lung cancer screening task force and extends the date for task force reporting.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society. Hawai'i is ranked 43rd in the United States for lung cancer screening with only 3% of high-risk patients receiving lung cancer screening.ⁱ Factors contributing to Hawai'i's low screening rate are likely limited access to care as well as a lack of patient and provider awareness.

As a state we need to identify ways to improve screening rates for those at the highest risk for lung cancer. Providing access to annual early screenings can make the difference between life or death. We respectfully ask that the legislature provide the task force additional time to convene and collaborate to develop complete and comprehensive reports to the legislature by removing the sunset.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1449**.

ⁱ <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/hawaii>



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 15, 2023

Re: In support of HB1449: Relating to Lung Cancer

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB1449, which amends Act 162, SLH 2022, to remove the sunset date for the early lung cancer screening task force and extend the date for the task force to submit reports to the legislature.

The Queen's Health System was grateful to be included as a task force member in 2022 and would like to express our strong commitment to continue serving. At the end of 2022, Queen's made a significant investment in state of the art technology that offers a minimally invasive procedure capable of diagnosing and removing lung cancer at earlier stages and smaller sizes. In November '22, we welcomed our first patient to the ION Robotic Navigational Bronchoscopy Program, a fully robotic, single anesthetic procedure that diagnoses, stages and treats lung cancer in one setting. For the second year in a row, the American Lung Association ranked Hawaii last in the nation for early detection of lung cancer. With the help of this task force, more residents will begin early screening and receive expeditious treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1449.

The mission of The Queen's Health System 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.

HB-1449

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:55:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 1449. This hits home with a dear friend who died from lung cancer although she did not have any of the risk factors for lung cancer. This early lung cancer screening task force needs to continue their research to help Hawaii residents and nationwide on its prevention, early identification and screening for this fatal disease.

TO: House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Via Videoconference
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1449, RELATING TO LUNG CANCER

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia J. Goto and I am writing to express my support for HB 1449, relating to lung cancer. This bill extends the work of the early lung cancer screening task force, which brings the community together to determine what steps are needed to increase Hawai'i's very low rate of early lung cancer screening.

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer for men and women in the state. The American Lung Association's State of Lung Cancer Report in Hawai'i for 2022 places Hawai'i dead last in early diagnosis of lung cancer. Early diagnosis gives lung cancer patients a better chance of survival and more affordable and effective treatment options. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2023, more people will die of lung cancer in Hawai'i than breast, liver, or prostate cancer combined.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) for lung cancer screening in high-risk patients, however, a minority of eligible people are screened. Research suggests that increased awareness of these guidelines by primary care physicians is associated with increased utilization of LDCT for screening, and educational interventions may improve adherence with this recommendation.¹

The task force proposed in this bill will take on the important duty of researching and recommending the steps and resources necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawaii, conducting any additional research that is needed, and providing a report to the legislature with possible policies the state can adopt.

Increased early screening for lung cancer will allow people diagnosed with lung cancer to benefit from all the treatment options available. I ask you please pass HB 1449 and ensure we are doing all we can to help people with lung cancer get an early diagnosis and another chance at life.

Thank you,

Cynthia J. Goto

¹ Raz, Dan J., et al. The Effect of Primary Care Physician Knowledge of Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines on Perceptions and Utilization of Low-Dose Computed Tomography. *Clinical Lung Cancer*, Volume 19, Issue 1, 51-57, January 2018.