

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2391
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the priorities of the Governor's
2 Executive Budget request. The bill appropriates out of the general revenues \$250,000 for fiscal
3 year 2022-2023.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports House Bill 2391. Lung and bronchus cancer is the
5 leading cause of cancer death in men and women in Hawaii. The United States Preventive
6 Services Task Force recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed
7 tomography (CT scan) in adults 50 to 80 years who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and
8 currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. The recommendation is based on research
9 showing that the early detection and treatment of lung cancer improves the 5-year survival rate
10 for smokers and former smokers.

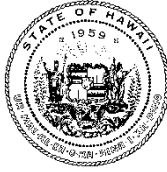
11 In Hawaii, 3% of high-risk people undergo annual CT scans that capture detailed pictures
12 of the lungs, compared to 6% nationally. In addition, only 19% of new lung cancer cases in
13 Hawaii are diagnosed at an early stage, which is significantly lower than the national rate of
14 24%.¹

15 The Department concurs with the recommendations of the measure to convene an early
16 lung cancer screening task force to research what steps and resources are necessary to increase

¹ American Lung Association, State of Lung Cancer, Hawaii. 2021 Accessible at: <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/hawaii>

1 lung cancer screening in Hawaii. The proposed task force includes many of the partners in the
2 Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Coalition that supports the Hawaii Cancer Plan 2030 objective to
3 increasing lung cancer screenings.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
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TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
FEBRUARY 15, 2022, 9:00 AM

HOUSE BILL 2391
RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2391. The State Procurement Office (SPO) provides comments to the exemption language on page 6, SECTION 2, lines 9 to 13 set forth below.

“(g) The task force may contract with consultants to conduct studies as it deems necessary for the purpose of recommending an early ~~lunch~~ lung cancer screening program and funding mechanism. Any contract executed pursuant to this Act shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that the early lung cancer screening task force shall ensure transparency when executing the contract.”

The SPO objects to the procurement exemption for contracting with consultants.

The Hawaii Public Procurement Code (code) is the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both HRS chapter 103D and 103F conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the code's procurement integrity laws.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials state: "Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments."

When public bodies are removed from the state's procurement code, it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &
HOMELESSNESS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2391

February 15, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2391 establishes an early lung cancer screening task force within the Department of Health (DOH); allows the task force to contract with consultants and exempts the task force from Chapter 103D, HRS; requires the task force to submit an interim and final report to the Legislature; and appropriates \$250,000 in general funds in FY 23 to DOH for the task force.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

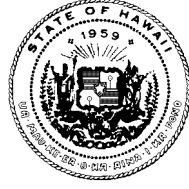
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 13, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2391 – RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Hearing: February 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the measure's intent, defers to the Department of Health (DOH), and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish an early lung cancer screening task force to research what steps and resources are necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawaii. The bill appropriates out of the general revenues \$250,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

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 the early screening. Currently, a representative from the DHS Med-QUEST Division participates in the

Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Coalition and would likely participate in this lung cancer screening task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Date: February 15, 2022
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: HB 2391 Early Lung Cancer Screening; Task Force; Department of Health;
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Position: SUPPORT**

Lung cancer has the highest cancer related mortality in the United States. Only 19% of new lung cancer cases in Hawaii are caught at an early stage, which is significantly lower than the national rate of 24%. This metric has not significantly changed for at least the last 5 years (Figure 1) ¹.

In order for screening to be effective in reducing mortality, more of the high-risk population should be screened. The challenges of access and healthcare literacy can be addressed by the proposed task force that includes patient advocates, academic institutions, health systems, providers and county and state government. HMA supports the appropriation of funds for establishment in the Hawaii Department of Health, as needed for centralized collaboration, research and public education efforts toward effective lung cancer screening.

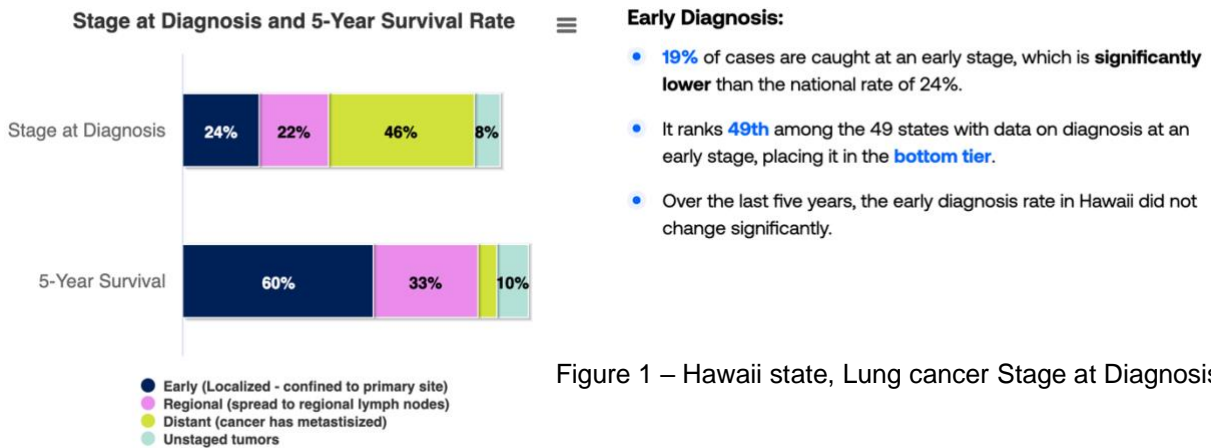


Figure 1 – Hawaii state, Lung cancer Stage at Diagnosis

CONTINUED

HMA OFFICERS

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



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

QUICK LINKS, REFERENCES

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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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 15, 2022 – 9am – Videoconference

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2391

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 would create an early lung cancer screening taskforce to determine the best ways to increase early lung cancer screenings in Hawai‘i.

In 2019, there were approximately 37,500 people 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 2021 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 2022, 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.

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 2391 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 2391.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pedro Haro".

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



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Tuesday, February 15, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2391, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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. 2391, RELATING TO HEALTH., and offers **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS** for your consideration.

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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish within the Department of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, an Early Cancer Screening Task Force (Task Force). To facilitate the work of the Task Force, this bill also appropriates \$250,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023, to carry out Task Force activities.

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, the American Cancer Society, and all stakeholders

If you should agree, we recommend that the highlighted language be added to the bill. On page 5, line 11:

"(4) A representative from the American Cancer Society;

(5) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care Association;

(6) At least one representative from an organization representing health care providers with relevant expertise on lung cancer screening; and . . . "

With this amendment, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Joe W. Ramos, PhD

Interim Director

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

And

Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM

Professor & Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2391 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 2391, relating to health. This bill creates an early lung cancer screening task force, which brings the community together to determine what steps and resources 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 2021 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 2022, more people will die of lung cancer in Hawai'i than breast, liver, or prostate cancer combined.

Moreover, 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.

The task force proposed in this bill will take on the important duty of researching the existing information, including potential contributors to the health disparities seen, recommending the steps and resources necessary to increase early 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. Once a comprehensive plan for lung cancer screening is adopted by Hawai'i, the University of

Hawai'i, John A. Burns School of Medicine will be instrumental in informing practicing physicians (and those in training) of this plan, as well as actively participating in any clinical research trials related to the campaign. University of Hawai'i Cancer Center researchers will work on new projects to follow up additional research recommended by the task force. Further, the legislatively established task force will also work with the medical school and cancer center to create a public awareness campaign to inform people about lung cancer screening.

Lung cancer is one of the deadliest cancers and it is 90% preventable. Fortunately, rates have decreased due to a reduction in smoking during the past 50 years. However, it is still the most common cause of cancer death in men and women. 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. However, it is still underused, especially in Hawai'i. 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.

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center and John A. Burns School of Medicine, we urge the committee's passage of HB 2391 and ensure we are doing all we can to help people with lung cancer get an early diagnosis and another chance at life.



DATE 14 Feb 2022

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Committee of Health, Human Services and Homeslessness

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2391 RELATING TO HEALTH

Hrg: 15 Feb 2022, 9:00 AM House conference room 329 via Videoconference

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committees,

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. As stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA strongly supports HB 2391, relating to health. This bill creates an 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 Hawaii for 2021 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 2022, more people will die of lung cancer in Hawai'i than breast, liver, or prostate cancer combined.

The task force prosed 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. This task force will also create a public awareness campaign to inform people lung cancer screening.



The burden of lung cancer is too high to bear. Lung cancer is a painful disease for all, taking loved ones very quickly at its later stages, sometimes leaving only weeks to live if diagnosed at stage 4 of the disease. At that stage, sometimes there's few treatment options. 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 2391, 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. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2022
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2391, RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia J. Goto and I am writing to express my support for HB 2391, relating to health. This bill creates an 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 Hawaii for 2021 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 2022, 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 2391 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.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
February 15, 2022 – 9am – Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2391, RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Troy Siruno and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2391, relating to health. This bill creates an 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 Hawaii for 2021 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 2022, more people will die of lung cancer in Hawai'i than breast, liver, or prostate cancer combined.

My mother Linda is a lung cancer survivor. It is only because of early lung cancer screenings she received through Veterans Affairs clinics/Tripler Hospital that her lung cancer was able to be detected early, monitored over a period of time, and then finally, when her doctors noticed a change in a spot they had been tracking, they were able to quickly operate and remove a portion of her lung. Today, she remains cancer-free because she was able to get proper treatment through early screening. This bill will ensure others in our community get access to the same type of early screening, preventing needless suffering from the effects of late-stage lung cancer.

The task force prosed 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. This task force will also create a public awareness campaign to inform people lung cancer screening.

The burden of lung cancer is too high to bear. Lung cancer is a painful disease for all, taking loved ones very quickly at its later stages, sometimes leaving only weeks to live if diagnosed at stage 4 of the disease. At that stage, sometimes there's few treatment options. 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.

I ask you please pass HB 2391 and ensure we are doing all we can to help people with lung cancer get an early diagnosis and another chance at life, just like my mom.

Thank you,

Troy Siruno
Honolulu, HI
(808) 216-7807
tsiruno@gmail.com



HIPHI Board

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Chair
KM Consulting LLC

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
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John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
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Molokai Community Health Center

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Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Michael Robinson, MBA, MA
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: February 14, 2022

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: Support HB 2391, Relating to Health

Hrg: February 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **support of HB 2391**, which creates an early lung cancer screening task force to research what steps and resources are necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawai'i.

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer in Hawai'i.ⁱⁱ An annual lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography (CT scan) is the recommended way to detect lung cancer at an early stage.

Prognosis is greatly affected by the stage at which the cancer is discovered, so regular screenings are critical for the detection of cancer in its early stages, when it is more treatable. Only 19% of lung cancer cases in Hawai'i are diagnosed early, compared to 24.5% nationally.ⁱⁱⁱ The 2021 State of Lung Cancer Report by the American Lung Association ranks Hawai'i last in the nation for the early diagnosis of lung cancer, with only 2.8% of high-risk smokers in Hawai'i undergoing the recommended annual CT scan, compared to the national average of 5.7%.^{iv}

Creating a taskforce with representatives from state agencies, stakeholders, advocates, healthcare professionals, health systems, and insurers will help to determine what steps and resources are necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawai'i. In addition, the report to the legislature of the taskforce's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, how to 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.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Fernandes', is written over a white background.

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ American Cancer Society. Cancer Statistics Center. Accessed from <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#!/state/Hawaii>

ⁱⁱⁱ American Lung Association. State of Lung Cancer in Hawaii. Accessed from <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/hawaii>

^{iv} American Lung Association. State of Lung Cancer in Hawaii. Accessed from <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/hawaii>