

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.C.R. 207
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN EARLY LUNG
CANCER SCREENING WORKING GROUP TO CONTINUE THE EFFORTS OF
THE EARLY LUNG CANCER SCREENING TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED
PURSUANT TO ACT 162, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2022**

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

Hearing Date: March 23, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 329
& Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Concurrent
3 Resolution 207 (H.C.R. 207) requesting the DOH to convene an Early Lung Cancer Screening
4 Working Group to continue the efforts of the Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force
5 established pursuant to Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022.

6 H.C.R. 207 resolves to push back various deadlines by one additional year to allow the
7 Working Group more time to effectively conduct the activities in Act 162, SLH 2022.

8 Increasing lung cancer screening rates and reducing cancer morbidity and mortality is a key
9 priority of the DOH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and Hawaii Cancer Plan 2030.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None



Hawaii Medical Association

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

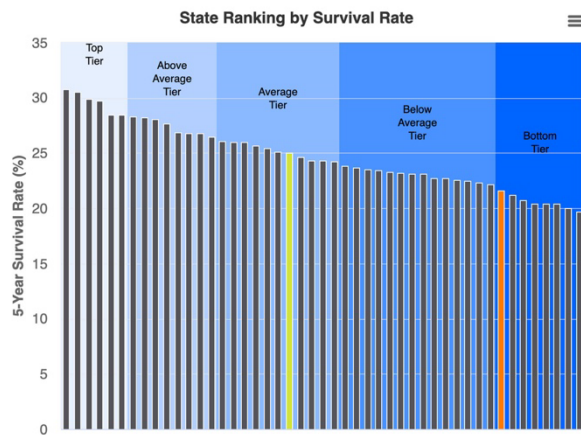
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Date: March 23, 2023
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Bernard Robinson MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

**Re: HCR 207 requesting Department of Health to convene an early lung cancer screening working group to continue the efforts of the Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force.
Position: Support**

This resolution would continue the efforts of the Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force established pursuant to Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, in researching the steps and resources necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawaii.

In Hawaii, only 19% of new lung cancer cases 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. Currently



- 5-Year Survival Rate:**
- The percent of people alive five years after being diagnosed with lung cancer (the survival rate) in Hawaii is **22%**, which is **significantly lower** than the national rate of 25%.
 - It ranks **39th** among the 46 states with survival data, placing it in the **bottom tier**.
 - Over the last five years, the survival rate in Hawaii did not change significantly.

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, in order for screening to be effective in reducing mortality, more of the high-risk population should be screened. The challenges of access to screening and healthcare

literacy are the focus of this Hawaii work group that includes patient advocates, academic institutions, health systems, providers and county and state government. HMA supports this continued work group in the Hawaii Department of Health, 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 resolution.

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

(continued)

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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Department of Pediatrics

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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 Collective

Date: March 21, 2023

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health and
Homelessness

Re: HR 211/HCR 207 – Requesting the Department of Health
to convene an early lung cancer screening working group
to continue the efforts of the early lung cancer screening
task force established pursuant to Act 162, Session Laws
of Hawai'i 2022.

Hrg: Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 3:00 PM, Conf Rm 224

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI) **supports HR 211/HCR 207**, which requests to continue the efforts of the Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force to research steps and resources needed to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawai'i.

Lung cancer is a life-threatening disease often not detected until it reaches advanced stages. Late detection makes treatment more challenging while also decreasing one's chances for survival. The American Lung Association's report ranks Hawai'i last in the nation for early lung cancer diagnosisⁱⁱ. Early screenings can significantly improve the chances of survival for high-risk individuals.

This task force will help to develop ways to raise awareness regarding the importance of early screening, promote guidelines for screening eligibility, and develop effective screening programs that can reach high-risk populations. They can provide recommendations to develop screening protocols, including imaging techniques, follow-up procedures, and treatment options. This thoughtful, standardized approach will support the highest quality of care possible.

The Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force can improve outcomes for individuals with lung cancer and help to lower the rate of lung cancer statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HR 211/HCR 207**.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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 <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/647c433b-4cbc-4be6-9312-2fa9a449d489/solc-2022-print-report#:~:text=Each%20year%20the%20American%20Lung,unhealthy%20levels%20of%20air%20pollution.&text=The%20lung%20cancer%20survival%20rate,five%20years%20nationally%20to%2025%25>.

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

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: Via Videoconference
Conference Room 329

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 211/HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 207**

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

My name is Dr. Cynthia J. Goto and I am writing to express my support of House Resolution 211/House Concurrent Resolution 207, requesting the Department of Health to convene an early lung cancer screening working group to continue the efforts of the early lung cancer screening task force established pursuant to Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022.

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 2022 places Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 working group proposed in this resolution 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 to please pass House Resolution 211/House Concurrent Resolution 207 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 for the opportunity to testify.

Cynthia J. Goto, M.D.

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.

HCR-207

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 8:55:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/23/2023 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pedro Haro	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

In full support, testimony attached.