



**LATE**

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

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.C.R. 33  
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL  
ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE  
FOR EARLY ACCESS BREAST CANCER SCREENING**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 19, 2022

Room Number: Conference Room 225  
& Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Office of the State Auditor  
2 on the fiscal implications of conducting the social and financial assessment.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH offers comments on House Concurrent Resolution 33  
4 (H.C.R. 33). H.C.R. 33 requests that the Auditor conduct an impact assessment report to  
5 increase categories of women required to have coverage for mammography, however the  
6 proposed increases do not align with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
7 recommendations that guide federal screening policies and practices. Based on the analysis of  
8 harm to benefit the USPSTF does not currently recommend breast cancer screening before age  
9 fifty except for women in their forties with a parent, sibling, or child with breast cancer.<sup>1</sup> The  
10 Department respectfully recommends following the USPSTF guidelines of biennial screening  
11 mammography for women aged fifty to seventy-four years for breast cancer screening and  
12 supplemental screening.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Final Recommendation Statement, Breast Cancer: Screening, January 11, 2016.  
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/breast-cancer-screening>. Accessed on February 3, 2021.

1           According to the 2018 data from the Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System,  
2 87% of women aged fifty to seventy-four years had a mammogram within the past two years.<sup>2</sup>  
3 Screening is effective in identifying breast cancer early, when it is often highly treatable.  
4 Increasing cancer screening rates and ensuring access to breast cancer screening for residents of  
5 Hawaii is a priority for both Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded programs, the  
6 Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program and Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control  
7 Program in the DOH which follow the USPSTF recommendations.

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

9   **Offered Amendments:** None

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<sup>2</sup> Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. (2018).  
<http://hhdw.org>. Accessed on February 3, 2021.



**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: April 19, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

Elizabeth England MD, Vice Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: HCR 33 Auditor; Impact Assessment Report; Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage; Early Access Breast Cancer Screening  
Position: Support**

This resolution requests that the Auditor conduct an impact assessment report for a proposed mandate of health insurance coverage for early access breast cancer screening. This report would include the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage.

The most frequently diagnosed cancer in the women of Hawaii by far is breast cancer, making up approximately 34% of newly diagnosed cases<sup>1,2</sup>. United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines recommend cancer screening for women at age fifty. But women in Hawaii between the ages of forty and forty-nine have higher incidence of breast cancer compared to the national average. USPSTF guidelines adversely impact women of Asian ancestry in Hawaii who are the ethnic group most likely to develop breast cancer before the age of fifty. In addition, Native Hawaiian women have the greatest breast cancer incidence and mortality in Hawaii.

Risk assessment and early detection decreases breast cancer morbidity and mortality. Expansion of insurance coverage for breast cancer screening for younger women of Hawaii will increase the early identification of breast cancer, and forward earlier initiation of the treatment needed.

A proposed mandate for health insurance coverage for early access breast cancer screening is necessary for the early detection and treatment of breast cancer in the women of Hawaii. HMA commends our lawmakers for this auditor resolution, which is an important step toward legislation that can save lives, especially for our minority women who are more likely to develop breast cancer before age 50. HMA strongly supports this resolution and all efforts to improve breast cancer screening in Hawaii.

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

**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



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## REFERENCES

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2. University of Hawaii at Manoa Speaker Series. "Cancer Disparities and Survival in Hawai'i." Jan 7, 2022.
3. Sharp Declines in Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening. 2021 June 30. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0630-cancer-screenings.](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0630-cancer-screenings)
4. Hawaii Radiological Society and American College of Radiology: "Breast Screening Disparities, Diverse Populations and Divergent Guidelines" September 25, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9o8uMuLxM4k&feature=youtu.be>
5. Sherman R. Mammogram guidelines can put women of color at risk. *Washington Post.* December 8, 2020. <https://www.thelily.com/mammogram-guidelines-can-put-women-of-color-at-risk-these-women-thank-god-they-advocated-for-themselves/>
6. Monticciolo DL, Newell MS, Hendrick RE, Helvie MA, Moy L, Monsees B, et al. Breast Cancer Screening in Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Recommendations From the ACR. *J Am Coll Radiol.* 2018;15(3):408-414.

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