



To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C Aquino, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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

Hearing: Monday, April 17, 2023, 9:30 AM

RE: **HCR207 Relating to Early Lung Cancer Screenings**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HCR207**. This measure requests the Department of Health to convene a working group to continue the efforts of the early lung cancer screening task force.

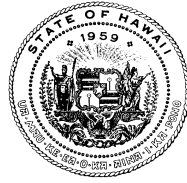
Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only safety net health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible 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 health needs.

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 allow the important work of the Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force to continue through the working group proposed in this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HCR207**.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
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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**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: April 17, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 225
& 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



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

LATE

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

Date: April 17, 2023

Re: Support of HCR207/HR211: 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.

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 HCR207/HR211, which requests the Department of Health to convene an early lung cancer screening working group to continue efforts of The Early Lung Cancer Screening Task Force established pursuant to Act 162, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.

The Queen's Health System was grateful to be included as a task force member in 2022 (Act 162) and would like to express our strong commitment to continue serving on the proposed working group. 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 Hawai'i last in the nation for early detection of lung cancer; with the help of this working group, it is our hope that more residents will begin early screening and receive expeditious treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR207/HR211.

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.