



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0749  
RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING AND AWARENESS  
PILOT PROGRAM**

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 2, 2015

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriated out of the general fund, the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
2 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as  
3 may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the Hawaii Colorectal Cancer Screening and  
4 Awareness Pilot Program to the Department of Health (DOH).

5 **Department Testimony:** The DOH appreciates the intent of SB0749, but defers to the  
6 Governor's Executive Budget request. The DOH recognizes the importance of screening and  
7 early detection of colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer  
8 death in Hawaii and there are clear ethnic and gender disparities in colorectal cancer mortality.  
9 In addition, colorectal cancer screening rates are much lower for those residing in low-income  
10 households and those less than a high school education.

11 Since 1997, the Department has provided critical breast and cervical cancer screening and  
12 early detection services to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women through the Breast  
13 and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). The program's support has been instrumental  
14 in helping community providers build the capacity and infrastructure needed to reach women  
15 most at risk and raise community awareness around early detection.

16 Modeled after the BCCCP, a Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program  
17 would increase awareness and screening rates, currently at 61 percent, of men and women over  
18 the age of 50 in an effort to reach a goal of 80 percent by 2018. The activities would not be  
19 sustainable beyond the proposed appropriation.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network**  
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
808.432.9149  
[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ron Kouchi, Vice Chair

**SB 749 – RELATING TO THE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PILOT PROGRAM**

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of SB 749, which establishes the colorectal cancer screening pilot project and appropriates funds for it.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Colorectal cancer, often referred to as colon cancer, affects about 900 people in Hawaii each year. Colorectal cancer is a dangerous and deadly cancer because precancerous polyps and early-stage colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. This means that someone could have polyps or colorectal cancer and not know it. That is why having a screening test is so important.

The purpose of this measure is to establish a program to screen for colorectal cancer for uninsured and underinsured individuals. Instead of creating a completely new program, this pilot program closely resembles the existing breast and cervical cancer screening program as a model. This measure was drafted in collaboration with the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important issue.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: Chair Jill Tokuda  
Vice Chair Ron Kouchi  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Paula Yoshioka  
Senior Vice President  
The Queen's Health Systems

Re: SB 749, Relating to the Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program  
Hearing—March 2, 2015 at 1:00 PM

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The Queen's Health Systems would like to provide support for SB 749, which would authorize and fund the Hawaii Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness Pilot Program. We would also like to express our strong preference for implementing this program in a manner consistent with the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP).

As noted in the bill, effective colorectal cancer screening can help increase detections at an early stage. Early detection can help to decrease mortality rates. I would urge legislators to look to the success of the state's BCCCP and engage the same community providers and partners for the implementation of this pilot program. The BCCCP has been an effective program in increasing accessing to screenings for many women in the state. We would ask that you continue to support language requiring that the implementation of the colorectal cancer screening and awareness pilot program is done in a fashion consistent with the BCCCP.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems 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.*