



DATE 20 Feb 2022

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 3367 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Hrg: 22 Feb 2022, 10:00 AM conference room 211 & via Videoconference

Dear Chair Donovan, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 SB 3367 SD1, 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.

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer in Hawai'i. In terms of health disparities, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i, and Native Hawaiian populations carry a higher burden of high lung cancer rates when compared across the nation. The rate of new lung cancer cases is 45 per 100,000 people among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i, compared with the rate of 34 per 100,000 among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationally. Native Hawaiians have 126 new lung cancers cases per 100,000 people, which is significantly higher than the rate of 41 per 100,000 among indigenous Peoples nationally, and one of the highest rates of lung cancer of any group in the nation.



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.

We strongly support SB 3367 SD1, 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