



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness  
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

By  
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And  
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### HCR 33 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EARLY ACCESS BREAST CANCER SCREENING

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center supports HCR 33, requesting the Auditor to conduct a social and financial assessment of proposed mandatory health insurance coverage for early access breast cancer screening.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in Hawai'i women. Annually in Hawai'i, an average of 1,233 women are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and another 308 are diagnosed with in situ (non-invasive) tumors. An average of 155 women in Hawai'i die of breast cancer each year. The incidence of breast cancer in Hawai'i is higher than the U.S. overall and statewide rates continue to increase each year. There are substantial disparities in the burden of breast cancer across Hawai'i's multiethnic populations with the highest mortality in Native Hawaiian women. Nearly ¼ of all breast cancer patients are diagnosed at advanced stages when it is more difficult to treat, and survival is poorest. Mammography is an important tool for the early detection of breast cancer.

The Resolution is necessary to determine the impact of expanding health care coverage for baseline mammograms for women between the ages of thirty-five and thirty-nine. The UH Cancer Center is prepared to provide relevant expertise and data to facilitate the proposed assessment.