HTH HEARING

HCR33

TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR



Dean H. Seki Comptroller

Maria E. Zielinski Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES P.O. BOX 119 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON April 19, 2013

H.C.R. 33

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO PARTICIPATE IN "LIGHT THE STATE CAPITOL BLUE" DURING A PORTION OF THE 2013 REGULAR SESSION

Chair Green and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.C.R. 33.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports H.C.R. 33,

provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget, and will work collaboratively with the Hawaii State Legislature, the Hawaii Prostate Cancer Coalition and other interested parties to effectuate the purpose of H.C.R. 33.

An appropriation of \$8000 in additional operating budget funding is necessary for the DAGS-Central Services Division program to participate in the "Light the State Capitol Blue" initiative during a portion of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature. The estimated costs are based on the following parameters: (1) 136 total light fixtures in both ponds and the rotunda

area (these are the fixtures that illuminate the exterior columns) and (2) lights will be turned on during the night – 12 hours for 30 days. Based on these parameters, estimated costs are: \$3500 for electricity; \$1500 for blue plastic film to cover light fixtures; and \$3000 for labor to fabricate light fixture covers and installation and removal of covers on each light fixture.

DAGS' understands that providing, installing, and removing the banner to be hung on the State Capitol grounds during the month of September 2013 will not be our responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.

<u>HCR33</u>

Submitted on: 4/18/2013 Testimony for HTH on Apr 19, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francisco Conde	Hawaii Prostate Cancer Coalition	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this resolution. Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men in Hawaii. This resolution will help raise public awareness about this disease, and hopefully encourage men to participate in prostate cancer screening programs.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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<u>HCR33</u>

Submitted on: 4/17/2013 Testimony for HTH on Apr 19, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Mizue	Hawaii Prostate Cancer Coalition	Support	Yes

Comments: Corrected version of prior comments submitted: I wholeheartedly endorse the written testimonies provided supporting the passage of HCR 33 raising awareness of prostate cancer. Mr. Davidson, through his actions and written testimony, has been instrumental in developing and implementing strategies for community interest in prostate cancer awareness. No male is immune to contracting prostate cancer and it is known that one in six will contract the disease. The problems we have witnessed are that men often are unaware of the hazards of the disease and fail to take measures for timely detection. Raising public awareness will serve to educate and avoid needless suffering and death.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 33 AND HR 18

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

APRIL 19, 2013

CONFERENCE ROOM 229

Thank you for considering our resolutions regarding raising awareness about Prostate Cancer in Hawaii.

Prostate Cancer is the most common form of cancer in men and the second leading cause of cancer death. One in six men will be diagnosed with this disease during their lifetime.

Nationally, about 240,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2013 and about 28,000 will die. Compare this to about 290,000 breast cancer diagnoses and about 40,000 deaths and you will see that "Prostate cancer is to men what breast cancer is to women."

And, yet, prostate cancer patients and survivors have done far less in bringing attention to this disease than have those fighting breast cancer.

These resolutions are intended to increase awareness about this devastating disease.

Many think of prostate cancer as a slow growing one that does not cause suffering. This is true in many cases. The problem is that many of these indolent forms of prostate cancer get treated aggressively with surgery and radiation, resulting in a lifetime of devastating side effects. In many cases, these treatments and this suffering may simply be unnecessary.

In other cases, men fail to pay attention to prostate health until it is too late. Maybe they think it is an "old man's disease." Or, they may be embarrassed to talk about that part of their body. Or, perhaps they know nothing about their prostate at all. In any case, they do not speak with their physicians about being tested and only discover their aggressive cancer when it has already spread beyond the prostate. For them, there is no cure. The rest of their life may be spent fighting a holding action against a disease that will eventually spread to their bones, causing great pain and, finally, death.

So, the problem is one of both overtreatment of those with indolent, slow-growing prostate cancer and inadequate treatment of those with aggressive disease.

One important step towards improving this situation is to raise awareness and to educate both men and women about prostate cancer. Our resolutions were written to ask that the State Capital be lit blue (the color associated with prostate cancer) during the legislative session. Since the session is almost over, we wish to amend our request so that the lighting of the Capital is done during September, National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. We, also, request that, again, we hang our awareness banner on the State Capital lawn in September.

I urge you to move these resolutions forward.

Mahalo

Steven Davidson Vice President and Secretary Hawaii Prostate Cancer Coalition