
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to the
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lung cancer is the
3 leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United
4 States. In 1987, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer to become
5 the leading cause of cancer deaths in women. The National
6 Institutes of Health estimated that medical expenditures for
7 cancer cost the United States an overall \$147,500,000,000 in
8 2015, \$13,400,000,000 of which was due to lung cancer. Lost
9 productivity due to early death from cancer cost the United
10 States an additional \$134,800,000,000 in 2005, \$36,100,000,000
11 of which was caused by lung cancer.

12 The legislature further finds that, according to the
13 National Cancer Institute's SEER Cancer Statistics Review,
14 between 2011 and 2017, the five-year survival rate for lung
15 cancer was approximately 21.7 per cent. This is lower than the
16 survival rates of many other leading cancers, including
17 colorectal cancer (64.7 per cent), breast cancer (90.3 per
18 cent), and prostate cancer (97.5 per cent). The five-year



1 survival rate for lung cancer is 59.8 per cent for cases
2 detected when the disease is still localized, meaning the cancer
3 is found only in the part of the body where it started.
4 However, only 17.8 per cent of lung cancer cases are diagnosed
5 at an early stage. For distant tumors, which are tumors spread
6 to other organs, the five-year survival rate is only 6.3 per
7 cent. More than half of people with lung cancer die within one
8 year of diagnosis.

9 According to the American Lung Association's 2021 State of
10 Lung Cancer report, in Hawaii lung cancer is also the number one
11 killer of men and women. The report ranks Hawaii last in the
12 nation for the early diagnosis of lung cancer. The study found
13 that just 2.8 per cent of high-risk people in Hawaii undergo
14 annual computerized tomography scans that capture detailed
15 pictures of the lungs, compared to 5.7 per cent nationally. In
16 a state-by-state analysis, the American Lung Association also
17 found that just nineteen per cent of lung cancer cases in Hawaii
18 are diagnosed early, compared to 24.5 per cent nationally. The
19 American Lung Association report further found that the rate of
20 new lung cancer cases for Native Hawaiians in Hawaii is one
21 hundred twenty-six per one hundred thousand, dramatically higher



1 than the rates for indigenous peoples nationally and for
2 Caucasians in Hawaii.

3 The legislature also finds that the United States
4 Preventive Services Task Force has recommended that smokers and
5 former smokers who are at high risk of developing lung cancer
6 undergo computerized tomography scans. In March 2021, the
7 United States Preventive Services Task Force expanded its
8 recommendation for screening to include a larger age range and
9 more current and former smokers. An annual lung cancer
10 screening with low-dose computed tomography is now recommended
11 for adults ages fifty to eighty years who have a twenty pack-
12 year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the
13 past fifteen years. This expansion will dramatically increase
14 the number of Hawaii residents considered at high risk for lung
15 cancer.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish an early lung
17 cancer screening task force to research the steps and resources
18 necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawaii.

19 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the
20 comprehensive cancer control program in the department of health
21 chronic disease prevention and health promotion division an



1 early lung cancer screening task force to research the steps and
2 resources necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in
3 Hawaii.

4 (b) The task force shall consist of:

5 (1) A representative from the office of the governor, to
6 be appointed by the governor;

7 (2) A representative from the senate, to be appointed by
8 the president of the senate;

9 (3) A representative from the house of representatives, to
10 be appointed by the speaker of the house of
11 representatives;

12 (4) A representative from the department of health;

13 (5) A representative from the department of human
14 services;

15 (6) A representative from the University of Hawaii John A.
16 Burns school of medicine;

17 (7) A representative from the University of Hawaii cancer
18 center; and

19 (8) A representative from each county.

20 (c) The chairperson of the task force shall invite the
21 following individuals to become members of the task force:



- 1 (1) A representative from the United States Department of
2 Veterans Affairs;
- 3 (2) A representative from each health insurer operating in
4 the State, including TRICARE;
- 5 (3) A representative from each health care system
6 operating in the State, including but not limited to
7 The Queen's Health Systems, Hawaii Pacific Health,
8 Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, federally qualified health
9 centers, Native Hawaiian health centers, and Tripler
10 Army Medical Center;
- 11 (4) A representative from the American Lung Association;
- 12 (5) A representative from the American Cancer Society;
- 13 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care
14 Association;
- 15 (7) At least one representative from an organization
16 representing health care providers with relevant
17 expertise on lung cancer screening; and
- 18 (8) Any other members, including representatives from
19 state agencies, stakeholders, or advocates, as
20 recommended by a majority of the task force.



1 (d) The task force shall select a chairperson from among
2 the members listed in subsection (b).

3 (e) Members of the task force shall serve without
4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
5 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

6 (f) The task force shall:

7 (1) Review all available research, studies, and models for
8 increasing early lung cancer screening rates in the
9 State;

10 (2) Conduct or initiate new studies as it deems necessary;
11 and

12 (3) Create a public awareness campaign to inform Hawaii
13 residents about early lung cancer screening.

14 (g) The task force may contract with consultants to
15 conduct studies as it deems necessary for the purpose of
16 recommending an early lung cancer screening program and funding
17 mechanism. Any contract executed pursuant to this Act shall be
18 exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that
19 the early lung cancer screening task force shall ensure
20 transparency when executing the contract.



1 (h) The task force shall submit an interim report of its
2 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
4 to the convening of the regular session of 2023.

5 (i) The task force shall submit a final report of its
6 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
7 legislation, to the legislature no later than July 31, 2023.

8 The report shall include:

- 9 (1) An analysis of the costs associated with early lung
10 cancer screening;
- 11 (2) A list of qualified facilities in the State that
12 perform lung cancer screenings;
- 13 (3) Protocols for health care providers and health care
14 systems to identify populations at high risk for lung
15 cancer;
- 16 (4) An explanation of how health care providers are made
17 aware of available insurance coverage for early lung
18 cancer screenings;
- 19 (5) Copies of guidelines used by health insurance
20 providers to determine coverage for early lung cancer
21 screening;



- 1 (6) A discussion of cultural and social barriers
- 2 associated with lung cancer screenings;
- 3 (7) Policy recommendations for increasing early lung
- 4 cancer screenings; and
- 5 (8) A work plan that identifies the steps needed in the
- 6 next five years to increase lung cancer screenings in
- 7 the State.
- 8 (j) The task force shall cease to exist on July 31, 2023.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
12 early lung cancer screening task force to carry out its
13 activities pursuant to this Act.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 health for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Early Lung Cancer Screening; Task Force; Department of Health;
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program; Appropriation

Description:

Creates an early lung cancer screening task force to research
the steps and resources necessary to increase early lung cancer
screening in Hawaii. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

