
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 in 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 lead to an
10 additional \$134,800,000,000 in 2005, \$36,100,000,000 of which
11 was caused by lung cancer.

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



1 year survival rate for lung cancer is 59.8 per cent for cases
2 detected when the disease is still localized, i.e., when the
3 cancer 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, i.e., tumors spread to
6 other organs, the five-year survival rate is only 6.3 per cent.
7 More than half of people with lung cancer die within one year of
8 being diagnosed.

9 The 2021 American Lung Association's *State of Lung Cancer*
10 reported that 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 early diagnosis of lung cancer. The study found that
13 just 2.8 per cent of high-risk people in Hawaii undergo annual
14 computerized tomography (CT) scans that capture detailed
15 pictures of the lungs, compared to the 5.7 per cent nationally.
16 In 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 is one hundred twenty-six per one hundred
21 thousand among native Hawaiians in Hawaii, dramatically higher



1 than the rates among indigenous peoples nationally and among
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 CT scans. In March 2021, the United States Preventives
7 Services Task Force expanded its recommendation for screening to
8 include a larger age range and more current and former smokers.
9 An annual lung cancer screening with low-dose computed
10 tomography is now recommended for adults ages fifty to eighty
11 years who have a twenty pack-year smoking history and currently
12 smoke or have quit within the past fifteen years. This
13 expansion will dramatically increase the number of Hawaii
14 residents considered at high risk for lung cancer.

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

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
19 of health chronic disease prevention and health promotion
20 division's comprehensive cancer control program, an early lung



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

3 (b) The task force shall consist of:

4 (1) A representative from the United States Department of
5 Veterans Affairs;

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

8 (3) A representative from the senate, to be appointed by
9 the senate president;

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

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

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

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

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

19 (9) A representative from each of the counties.

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



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

4 (f) The task force shall:

5 (1) Review all available research, studies, and models for
6 increasing early lung cancer screening rates in the
7 nation;

8 (2) Conduct or initiate new studies as it deems necessary;
9 and

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

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

19 (h) The task force shall submit an interim report of its
20 findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2023.

3 (i) The task force shall submit a final report of its
4 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
5 legislation, no later than July 31, 2023. The report shall
6 include:

- 7 (1) Costs associated with early lung cancer screening;
- 8 (2) Available access to qualified facilities that perform
9 lung cancer screening;
- 10 (3) Protocols for health care providers and health care
11 systems to identify high risk populations for lung
12 cancer;
- 13 (4) An explanation of how health care providers are made
14 aware of available insurance coverage for early lung
15 cancer screening;
- 16 (5) Guidelines used by health insurance providers to
17 determine coverage for early lung cancer screening;
- 18 (6) Cultural and social barriers associated with
19 completing lung cancer screening;
- 20 (7) Policy recommendations to increase early lung cancer
21 screening; and



1 (8) A work plan that identifies needed steps for the next
2 five years to increase lung cancer screening in the
3 State.

4 (j) The task force shall cease to exist on July 31, 2023.

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

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

12 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 what steps and resources are necessary to increase early lung cancer screening in Hawaii. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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