Joe William Ramos Jr. <joewramos@gmail.com>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu  

Please find attached.  
Mahalo,  
Joe

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35K
Testimony to the BOR- Joe W. Ramos  
January 28, 2016

My name is Joe W. Ramos and I am a UH Professor (Researcher) and Director of the Cancer Biology Program at the UH Cancer Center. I am providing testimony on behalf of myself as a faculty member of the Center.

I urge you to find ways to **improve the funding for UH across the board.** It is a beacon of all the best Hawaii has to offer the world. As part of that, I urge you to support the $5 Million ask on behalf of its UH Cancer Center - which our recent National Cancer Institute External Advisory Committee called a "crown jewel for UH." These G-funds are needed to put our outstanding faculty on stable funding streams. These funds are needed to allow the UH Cancer Center the chance to restructure its budget and business model. These funds are needed to recruit a top notch Director with the talent and integrity to lead us to fulfill our mission, in alliance with UH, to reduce the burden of cancer for the people of Hawaii.

NIH will get an extra $2 Billion dollars this fiscal year. The first increase in funding in over ten years. President Obama and Vice President Biden have made cancer research a special focus with their **Cancer Moonshot Initiative.** Importantly, since our last NCI renewal our funding has increased at a time when funding at the national level had fallen. So we anticipate that we will bring in even more funds in the coming years. Now is not the time to pull our punches.

Our work on cancer involves our graduate, undergraduate and high school students. We host UH undergraduates and local high school students in our labs to let them get a taste of doing research in a nationally funded team. I have hosted over 25 undergrads and 8 high school students in my eleven years at the Cancer Center - most as part of the Cancer Center CURE program (a supplement to our NCI designation grant). I hope that I might in this way promote our local students to consider a STEM career. This is part of the education mission of the Cancer Center.

I imagine we have all been directly or indirectly affected by cancer. I lost a brother in law who was only 32 to a rare form of melanoma. He left behind two young children. I lost a close colleague here at the Center to breast cancer who left behind three very young children. These are catastrophes. Thankfully, my mother-in-law is a 10 year breast cancer survivor.

**This is personal. Every Day I remember them and others affected by cancer. I know why I come to work. Why I put up with the difficulties. Like my colleagues here- I intend to make a difference.** So I am very proud of our University of Hawaii Cancer Center and its **irreplaceable** role in the islands.

Yes, there are more famous Cancer Centers on the Mainland, but they don’t live here, and they don’t address the specific needs we have in the islands where we have one of the most diverse populations ethnically in the world.

That is our job.

We do **RESEARCH** in our communities centered on our lifestyle, our ethnicities, capitalizing on our special resources and local talent to **reduce the burden of cancer here** and everywhere.

We bring in and organize **CLINICAL TRIALS** here in the islands so you can get the **best treatment** without leaving the support of friends and family and the revitalizing comforts of home.

We **EDUCATE** our local physicians, nurses, students, friends and family about the very latest research in **basic cancer research, cancer prevention** and **treatment breakthroughs.**

That is what we do for Hawaii... That is our mission... That is our **value.**

I urge you to support UH by going forward with the Uh ask at the legislature and putting in place a workable business plan to help its Cancer Center continue its service to the islands.

Mahalo