



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Health

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by

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HCR 7 – AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF A CANCER PRESUMPTIVE STATUTE RELATING TO FIREFIGHTERS

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center provides the following comments regarding this resolution.

The UH Cancer Center's mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and patient care with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawai'i and the Pacific. We are one of only 68 institutions in the United States that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities, and gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

Our perspective on health-related legislative matters is informed by scientific literature. While we have not yet formed an opinion on whether a cancer-presumptive statute relating to firefighters should be enacted in Hawai'i, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in the proposed task force.