



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Committee

Date

by

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 167 / SR 105 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO RELOCATE THE PROPOSED NEW CANCER RESEARCH CENTER OF HAWAII FROM THE KAKAAKO DISTRICT OF OAHU TO A SITE NEAR THE CENTER'S PRESENT LOCATION CLOSE TO THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL.

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SCR 167 and SR 105. The resolutions urge UH and HCDA to relocate the new Cancer Center away from Kaka'ako AND next to Queens Medical Center. I wish to address these two requests separately.

The new Cancer Center is proposed to be built on a 5.5 acre lot in Kaka'ako makai immediately ewa to the new UH Medical School. There are multiple reasons why that location is appropriate:

- 1) Both the Cancer Center and the Medical School will benefit from the synergy of being located in close proximity. The synergy includes the use of shared research facilities such as expensive instrumentation, animal facilities, library, and many other shared research core facilities; use of shared educational facilities such as lecture halls, conference rooms, as well as teaching faculty; and use of shared operational facilities such as power plant, parking, security, etc.
- 2) For those reasons, both the Medical School and the Cancer Center had always been part of UH's plan for new biomedical facilities in Kaka'ako. As a matter of fact, the legislature in its special session in the Fall of 2001 appropriated \$150 million to build both the Medical School and the Cancer Center in Kaka'ako.
- 3) Kaka'ako is conceived to be the hub for a new life sciences industry in our State with the aim to diversify our economy. Kamehameha Schools are planning to build a large research building adjacent to the Medical School and Cancer Center, and several biotech companies have already or are planning to locate to Kaka'ako makai. The

presence of the new Cancer Center is very important to develop a critical mass of biomedical facilities in Kaka'ako, with the inherent synergies. After all, cancer is the disease which receives the most dollars from federal and private sources for research and drug development.

4) The new Cancer Center will have a state-of-the-art outpatient cancer care facility. This facility will be operated in partnership between UH, several of our major hospitals in the State (every hospital is welcome to be a partner), and private oncologists and group practices, all of whom have expressed their support for such a facility to improve cancer care in the State. An important component for current support from hospitals is the fact that Kaka'ako is a "neutral" site, and no hospital will derive an undue benefit from being located next to the Cancer Center.

5) Significant planning effort have gone towards building the Cancer Center in Kaka'ako by UH and Townsend Capital, the developer selected by the UH Board of Regents.

There are multiple reasons why the new Cancer Center should not be built adjacent to Queens Medical Center.

1) There is no guarantee that the Board of Water Supply site (or any other site on or near Queens) will be available.

2) There is no guarantee that any site near Queens would be large enough to accomodate the new Cancer Center.

3) There is no guarantee that any site near Queens would be suitable to build a Cancer Center for reasons such as soil conditions, lava tubes, etc.

4) The synergy with the Medical School and biotech firms would be lost. Certain facilities need to be duplicated.

5) A significant delay in the construction.

6) Most importantly, a new Cancer Center near Queens would not have a clinical care facility as all hospitals which currently support to build the Cancer Center in Kaka'ako would no longer partner with UH. The detrimental consequences would include, but are not limited to:

- no coordinated comprehensive cancer care for our cancer patients
- no access to innovative Phase I and II clinical trials
- a continued need for patients to seek cancer care on the mainland
- loss of the opportunity to ever receive the designation from the NCI as a "Comprehensive Cancer Center"

I strongly urge you not to pass these resolutions.

Thank you very much.