



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, April 4, 2016 at 8:35 a.m.

By

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and

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SCR 8 SD1/SR 6 SD1 – AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE ISSUE OF A CANCER PRESUMPTIVE STATUTE RELATING
TO FIREFIGHTERS

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i provides the following comments.

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. The UH Cancer Center is one of only 69 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 cancer researchers in Hawai'i with greater access to federal funding and research opportunities, and gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to many innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

Our perspective on health-related legislation is informed by scientific literature, including research conducted by our own faculty. 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.