



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

By  
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And  
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### SB 887 SD2 – RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center) supports this bill as currently written.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 70 institutions in the U.S. that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it 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.

The UH Cancer Center is a leader nationally in research focused on tobacco control and tobacco-related cancer prevention. Faculty at the UH Cancer Center have been recognized as international leaders in research into the health effects of e-cigarettes and have been selected as members of National commissions engaged in policy recommendations.

While the UH Cancer Center supports efforts to reduce consumption and thereby mitigate the adverse effects of tobacco products. The Bill as written will promote a reduction in tobacco use while retaining support of the UH Cancer Center building expenses and smoking related cancer prevention research and tobacco control programs.

The Bill as written will allow for sustainable fiscal operations at the only NCI designated cancer center in the Pacific and will support ongoing tobacco and cancer prevention research efforts that will greatly benefit the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.