



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Higher Education  
And Health  
January 29, 2009 at 1:15pm  
by  
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INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING – An update on the status of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii'i and the Regional Biosafety Laboratory in Kaka'ako

Chair Tokuda, Chair Ige, members of the Senate Higher Education and Senate Health Committees:

Good afternoon and mahalo for your continuing interest in the University's efforts to improve the quality of cancer care in our community. Joining me this afternoon from UH Manoa are Chancellor Dr. Virginia Hinshaw, Vice Chancellor for Research (and former interim dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine) Dr. Gary Ostrander; interim director of the UH Manoa Cancer Research Center of Hawaii Dr. Michele Carbone, and dean of JABSOM Dr. Jerris Hedges. From the UH System leadership team we have Associate Vice President for Capital Improvement Projects Brian Minaai, Vice President for Budget and Finance and CFO Howard Todo, and Vice President for Research Jim Gaines, who will address the joint committees' interest in the progress of plans for a regional biocontainment laboratory.

Recently during testimony before the House Finance Committee, I was asked by Representative Jerry Chang about the current status of our efforts related to improved cancer treatment and research. In my response, I thanked the Legislature for identifying in 2007 a source of funds for our efforts via an increase in the cigarette tax, and for correcting some technical flaws in that legislation in 2008.

As you will hear in subsequent testimony, since the 2008 Legislature adjourned and with a funding stream assured, we have been working deliberately and diligently to bring our dreams to reality. Lease negotiations with the Hawaii Community Development Authority were concluded successfully in August. As Brian Minaai will describe, discussions with Townsend and Company, the firm selected by the Board of Regents with which to conduct exclusive negotiations, have progressed despite the turbulence in capital markets. Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Carbone has made significant progress in bringing all the major health care providers to the table, around the concept of a "matrix" style clinical care system.

With these recent developments, and assuming negotiations with Townsend come to a successful conclusion, the design phase for a research and clinical trials facility is estimated to be completed by mid- 2010, at which time we will proceed into construction. The construction will take approximately 30 months, with a projected opening date in late 2012 or early 2013.

The University is grateful for your continuing support. Permit me now to bring to call on Chancellor Hinshaw to introduce Dr. Carbone, after whom Dean Hedges will speak, then Brian Minaai will deliver his testimony, and Jim Gaines will deliver his testimony. We welcome any questions you may have.