

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committees on Higher Education And Health January 29, 2009 at 1:15pm by Jerris Hedges, MD, MS MMM Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING – An update on the status of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i

Cancer produces significant death and disability in Hawai'i. As a major factor impairing optimal health for residents of Hawai'i, a united front in the healthcare community is imperative to fight cancer.

A strong, vibrant Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i (CRCH) that is well integrated with the research, educational and training roles of the John A. Burns School of Medicine provides much value to the Islands.

To benefit residents of our state, the school of medicine is collaborating with the CRCH to recruit additional scientists who will help identify the mechanisms by which cancer arises, impairs health, and is best treated.

Through their participation in the medical school and the local cancer care community, clinical scientists and cancer providers affiliated with the CRCH will further enhance the care that can be provided in Hawai'i.

A commitment to continued collection of tobacco tax funds for enhancing the CRCH and related activities is essential for moving this agenda forward.