



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate and House Committees on Higher Education  
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by  
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President  
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### **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING** Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i

Chair Tokuda, Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate and House Committees on Higher Education:

Aloha, and thank you for this opportunity to brief you on the current status of our efforts to build a new Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i facility. In addition to myself, let me take a moment to introduce some of the key leaders of the Cancer Research Center and other members of my advisory group: Regent Dennis Hirota, Vice President for Research James Gaines, Vice President for Budget and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Howard Todo, Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine Dr. Jerris Hedges, Director of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i Dr. Michele Carbone, Associate Vice President for Capital Improvements Brian Minaai, Adjunct Professor Eric Holmes, and Associate Director Kerry Kakazu. These leaders of the University of Hawai'i and our community leader partners, Art Ushijima, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Queen's Medical Center and Chuck Sted, President and past Chief Executive Officer, Hawai'i Pacific Health have focused their attention on the development of a new Cancer Research Center for the past four months with the University leaders meeting weekly. Thanks to their collaboration and joint efforts we are able to report significant progress in the development of our new Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i.

Together, we are here today to demonstrate our commitment and to assure you that we have made the development of the new Cancer Research Center one of the highest priorities for the University and our community. Cancer is a terrible disease that accounts for one of every four deaths. Thanks to the work of many cancer researchers, major progress has been made and, for example, many pediatric tumors that were fatal just a few decades ago are now successfully treated. Moreover, many people will never suffer cancer because our researchers have found ways to prevent certain types of cancer, for example, using cancer vaccines. Why do we need a cancer center in Hawai'i?

We need a state-of-the-art Cancer Center in Hawai'i, because Hawai'i residents that develop cancer have the right to be treated here, where they live, and within the comfort of their families. For that to happen we need to provide our patients with the same

access to treatment options and technology that are available to them on the US mainland.

We need state-of-the-art facilities that will integrate research and clinical studies to develop new strategies to prevent and to treat cancer in Hawai'i. We also need to work together with the main hospitals in our community because they provide cancer care to our residents. I am pleased to report that the Queen's Medical Center, Hawai'i Pacific Health and Kuakini Hospital, will be joining our Cancer Center Consortium and we hope more will join soon. Under this Consortium model, the CRCH scientists will provide new ways to prevent and treat cancer and the result of their work will be implemented in the clinical facilities of our excellent hospitals. This model provides significant cost-sharing benefits to all participants and increases the treatment options available to Hawai'i cancer patients. Dr. Michele Carbone, Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i Director, will share details of the progress we've made in this area in his presentation to you.

The CRCH is a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated center, a prestigious designation that is awarded to only 65 centers in the US and that is accompanied with federal grant funding. Our new facility will help us maintain our NCI designation and will increase the support we receive from the NCI. UH Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw will expand upon the significance of NCI designation.

A strong Cancer Center is certainly important to the University of Hawai'i and to the participating hospitals, but is even more important to the State of Hawai'i. A state-of-the-art facility will help us retain the excellent researchers and physicians we already have and to recruit those that we don't have. The scientists and physicians are instrumental to our success in earning research funding and to develop new ways to prevent and treat cancer.

The Cancer Center will increase access to cancer treatment and prevention services to Hawai'i's residents. Our Center will have a special focus on those types of cancers to which Hawai'i residents are more vulnerable. Our dream is that Hawai'i cancer patients will no longer need to travel to the mainland because the most up-to-date treatment options and expertise will be available to them right here, at home. We cannot achieve this goal unless we build a new facility: if we all work together we can fulfill this vision soon. Urgency here is critical because it may mean a patient's life.

We are pleased to report that we recently selected the planning, architectural and project management teams to lead the effort in building our new facility. Mr. Brian Minaai, UH Associate Vice President, will discuss the firms selected through a competitive selection and plans for development and construction of our new Cancer Center.

We have developed a strong, feasible business plan and one that will result in the opening of the research facility in fall 2013. It depends on the strong continuing support of our legislative partner and today I ask that you continue your effective efforts.

Upon the completion of presentations, I, members of my Advisory Team and community leader partners will be available to respond to questions. Before closing, I want to thank you for your support in the development of a new Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i.

Because of your past support and the collaborative efforts of the members of the Advisory Group and our community leader partners we have made significant progress towards achieving our goal of creating a Cancer Research Center that will help to improve the health and well being of the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you.