



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health

February 6, 2007

by

Carl-Wilhelm Vogel, MD, PhD
Director, Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 225: RELATING TO CIGARETTE TAX

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports House Bill 225. This bill corrects a minor technical error and clarifies that monies from the increased cigarette tax to be deposited into special funds created by the 2006 Legislature (Act 316) to support the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i, emergency medical services, trauma care, and community health centers will be calculated on a per cigarette basis. The University of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 225 as the funds from the increased cigarette tax will be the primary revenue stream to support the construction, operation funds, and programs of the new Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i to be built in Kaka'ako. The new Cancer Research Center will not only be housing extended research facilities, but will also contain a state-of-the-art outpatient cancer care facility that will offer comprehensive cancer care and access to innovative clinical trials to Hawai'i's increasing number of cancer patients.