



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by
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HB 1655 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CANCER RESEARCH SPECIAL FUND

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center respectfully provides these comments.

The Cancer Center is one of only 68 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers in the United States. Our scientists and physicians focus on key cancers that impact the people of Hawai'i. Just as importantly, our work contributes to a global body of knowledge that leads to the development of life-saving treatments and therapies. And we engage in scientific collaborations on an international scale, from clinical trials conducted across the United States to partnership programs in Guam, Micronesia, and the Pacific.

The Cancer Center's impact extends beyond cancer research and treatment. Our researchers bring important grant funding to Hawai'i, which helps stimulate the island economy and generate good local job opportunities, consistent with the State's goal of "fueling an innovation economy."¹

The Cancer Center is working very hard to produce a viable business plan. We are discussing our ideas and proposals with our University of Hawai'i leadership, and we expect to have an approved plan before the end of the 2014 legislative session. When the plan is completed and approved, we will provide it to the Committee.

¹ Governor Neil Abercrombie, *State of the State Address*, 2013.