



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Monday, April 18, 2016 at 10:15 a.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM

Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine
Interim Director, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 32 HD1 – REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE CANCER IN THE FIREFIGHTING PROFESSION

Chairs Baker and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani and Espero, and Members of the
Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center provides the following comments regarding this
resolution.

The UH Cancer Center's mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and patient care with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The UH Cancer Center is one of only 69 institutions in the United States that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides cancer researchers in Hawai'i with greater access to federal funding and research opportunities, and gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to many innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

Our perspective on health-related legislative matters is informed by scientific literature, including research conducted by our own faculty. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the proposed task force.