



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Joint Hearing of the Senate Committee on Health and the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

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by

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### **SB 139: RELATING TO CIGARETTE TAX**

Chairs Senators Ige and Fukunaga, Co-chairs Senators Fukunaga and Espero,  
Members of the Senate Committees on Health and on Economic Development  
and Taxation:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports Senate Bill 139. 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 SB 139 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.