UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

SB 2673 – RELATING TO THE CANCER RESEARCH SPECIAL FUND

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Committee on Education

February 6, 2008 at 1:15pm

by

Howard Todo
Vice President for Budget & Finance/CFO
University of Hawaii System

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Chairs Ige and Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

This bill amends sections 245-15, HRS, by authorizing that deposits to the Hawaii cancer research special fund can also be used for capital expenditures and amends section 304A-2168, HRS, relating to the Hawaii cancer research special fund by allowing the University to deposit all fees, charges, and other moneys received in conjunction with Cancer Research Center of Hawaii (CRCH) programs or through transfers from other accounts or funds into this fund. Funds deposited in the fund would be expended for operating expenses and capital expenditures.

The proposed amendment will provide CRCH with the ability to develop other sources of revenue to finance its program requirements. The increasing number of cancer patients has amplified the need for expanded cancer research in Hawai′i. The additional authority will provide an opportunity to advance the financial status of the CRCH.

The CRCH's primary source of revenue to fund its operations will continue to be the cigarette tax. Other sources of revenue are needed to ensure that the Center will be adequately funded. It is envisioned that other revenues can be derived from cancer center programs, and that these revenues would be used to further cancer research and care in Hawai′i.

Passage of this measure will serve to increase the sources of revenue available to support the CRCH. Such other revenues derived from the center will be used to supplement State funds.

The University strongly supports passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.