

HCR 18



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and Health

March 10, 2010, 2:25 p.m.

By
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
And
Michele Carbone, MD, PhD
Director
Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
And
Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18 – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CANCER RESEARCH CENTER OF HAWAII

Aloha, Chairs Ige and Tokuda and members of the Senate Committees on Health and Higher Education. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of House Concurrent Resolution 18 expressing strong support for the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i (Center).

We deeply appreciate the expression of commitment for the Cancer Center, which is so very important for the health and well being of the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region. This endeavor is a top priority for the UH Regents, UH System and UH Mānoa and has received focused attention from those groups and the many hospital partners and cancer care givers committed to this effort. As this resolution indicates, significant progress is being made in the critical areas of recruitment, partnership formation, and the construction of a new research facility that will ensure we can deliver the most advanced research and care programs in the decades ahead. That progress has been possible because of the State's support and commitment. The resolution's message underscores the value of sustaining the Center's forward momentum and provides convincing evidence of Hawai'i's commitment to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Recently we have been able to recruit a number of new faculty members and a senior administrator to enhance our research efforts. These recruitments, in combination with the formation of a consortium with our local hospitals and the UH Mānoa John A. Burns

School of Medicine (JABSOM), will be instrumental in the development of a strong clinical program, which the NCI has mandated. This critical step will advance our ability to conduct cutting-edge translational research that can be quickly and efficiently transformed into successful treatment and therapy options for the patient.

As the resolution states, we have also made significant progress in the construction of a new facility in Kaka'ako that will provide unified and expanded research space for our current researchers and help us create an outstanding environment to attract talented new investigators to the Center. Both project management and design teams are in place and we are well on our way to breaking ground on the project later this year.

Our activities were recently reviewed by representatives from the NCI and they were impressed with our progress and with the strong support expressed by the legislators with whom they met. While we all acknowledge that there is much more work to be done, the NCI continues to be supportive of our efforts.

As stated in the resolution, the Center's mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and service with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Our citizens deserve first-class, state-of-the-art care that is delivered in these islands by researchers and health care professionals who have a constant eye on our own people. Researchers at the Cancer Center, along with members of the JABSOM faculty, have that commitment.

We greatly appreciate the Legislature's message of support for the Cancer Center and for its investment in a healthier future for the people of Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific Region.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • Fax: (808) 547-4646

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 10, 2010 – 2:25 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In Support of H.C.R. 18 Expressing Support for The Cancer Research Center of Hawaii

Chairs Tokuda and Ige, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Green, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Art Ushijima, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Queen's Health Systems. I am pleased to provide supporting testimony to the University of Hawaii's Cancer Research Center, the development of its new cancer research facilities in Kakaako and the formation of the Hawaii State Cancer Consortium, whose goal is improve cancer research and clinical care in our community.

The Cancer Research Center of Hawaii (CRCH) is a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated cancer center – one of only sixty five in the nation and serves a national resource for cancer research and state-of-the-art treatment. We believe Hawaii's population significantly benefits from CRCH maintaining its prestigious NCI cancer center designation, focusing on the depth, breadth, and level of integration among its three research areas of laboratory, population-based, and clinical research. We believe a collaborative model, where the resources of Queen's, Hawaii Pacific Health, Kuakini along with the University of Hawaii and other community providers could be directed to create a state-wide cancer center which attracts federal government support through the NCI and which garners academic and financial support for research and treatment.

The CRCH external advisory board has specified three key priorities in order to maintain CRCH's NCI designation: (1) Preserve the cigarette tax funding in order to expand CRCH's research facilities; (2) recruit federally-funded investigators – scientists who bring expertise and a reputation for advancing cancer research and care; and (3) develop tumor site-specific clinical research in order to advance and improve cancer care.

We very much appreciate that the Legislature has maintained its commitment for the cigarette tax funding in the last legislative session and we ask for the continuance of this funding which is critical for CRCH's new facilities. Tangible progress is being made in the recruitment of notable scientists and we along with Hawaii Pacific Health and Kuakini Health System are making annual funding commitments up to \$2.2 million to support this endeavor. We have actively

supported clinical research activities for specific types of cancers such as breast cancer and have seen significant increases in patient accruals for clinical trials.

In a brief period of about twelve months, remarkable progress has been made because of an inclusive, collaborative approach to cancer research and care. We as providers of cancer care are coming together in an unprecedented manner because we recognize that to optimize resources to support Hawaii's cancer patients requires an inclusive, "matrix" model approach. It is also most cost-effective and efficient. Dr. Michele Carbone's leadership in promoting collaboration and inclusion has enabled the dialogue among providers so that we could focus our energies and resources toward the greater good of our patients and the community.

The road to building a great cancer program has many challenges with numerous speed bumps and twists and turns. But the direction today is very clear and focused. We have come together as a community of healthcare providers and professionals with a unified purpose and goal to improve cancer care for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



Testimony of C. Mike Kido
External Affairs
The Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

HCR 18 – Expressing Support for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
2:25 P.M.
Conference Room 016

Chair David Ige, Chair Jill Tokuda and members of the committees:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs for the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters Union.

PRP **supports** the intent and purpose of HCR 18 – Expressing Support for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii.

As indicated in this resolution, significant progress is being made in the critical areas of recruitment, partnership formation, and the construction of a new research facility that will ensure advanced research and care programs in decades ahead. The new facility will help attract and retain top tier researchers and physicians; the project will result in the generation of construction and other related jobs that are much needed in our State's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our opinion and we kindly ask for your support of HCR 18.