



Kuakini Health System
A Health Care Organization

LATE TESTIMONY

February 9, 2010

Representative Jerry L. Chang
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education
House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2010
State of Hawaii

RE: Testimony in Support of House Resolution, H.R. No. 9, and House
Concurrent Resolution, H.C.R. No. 18: Expressing Support For The Cancer
Research Center of Hawaii

Dear Representative Chang:

Kuakini Medical Center wishes to indicate its support of House Resolution, H.R. No. 9 and House Concurrent Resolution, H.C.R. No. 18, which convey the support of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii. Kuakini believes these two resolutions will help reflect to the Hawaii public, health care community, and to the federal government of the continuing support of the Hawaii State Legislature for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii (Cancer Center) and its ongoing research initiatives.

These two resolutions, if passed by the Legislature, will provide a positive sign to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that Hawaii is supportive of the continuation and expansion of the Cancer Center as a NCI-designated Cancer Center and this will greatly benefit the Hawaii community. The mission of the Cancer Center to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and outreach is in alignment with one of the areas of focus for Kuakini, specifically providing cancer care and serving the elderly population that happens to have a high incidence of cancer. The research initiatives of the Cancer Center will provide increased opportunities for clinical trials, diagnostic and therapeutic methodologies, and prevention programs, and this will be beneficial for cancer patients in Hawaii. This should help increase access to cancer related services and reduce the need for cancer patients to travel out-of-state for the purpose of seeking other options for cancer care. Also, the research initiatives will provide new opportunities for collaboration between the Cancer Center and Hawaii's hospitals in cancer research; and this will have a long-term impact on improving the overall care for cancer patients.

Furthermore, Kuakini foresees the incremental value to the community through the education initiatives of the Cancer Center. The education initiatives will help the recruitment of new cancer researchers to Hawaii, as well as provide the opportunity to develop and train additional cancer researchers to work at the Cancer Center or affiliate organizations such as the hospitals. These initiatives will also provide important educational opportunities for Hawaii's physicians, clinical personnel, and multidisciplinary allied health professionals involved in patient care; and this will result in improved cancer care for the community. Medical and surgical residents assigned to Kuakini and other Hawaii hospitals will benefit from the Cancer Center's education initiatives and hopefully this will encourage residents to consider clinical specialties

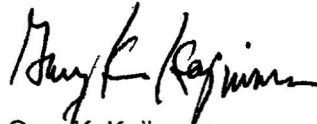
related to cancer. The Hawaii community will also benefit from the Cancer Center's education initiatives that will be tailored to the general public and specifically to cancer patients and their families / caregivers. The outreach initiatives of the Cancer Center will help the underserved populations of the Hawaii community regarding cancer care and this will be managed with appropriate cultural and ethnic sensitivity, and with appropriate collaboration with available clinicians and community resources.

Hawaii has very limited resources as an island-State and this is reflected in the area of human assets such as the supply of clinicians, health care personnel and researchers specializing in cancer. The only alternative for Hawaii is to form strong collaborative efforts among the hospitals, clinicians, researchers, School of Medicine, and Cancer Center in order to best utilize available human resources for improving cancer care in the Hawaii community. Kuakini has been very fortunate to have ongoing research for over 40 years and we recognize that research is one of the ways to improve the health status of the Hawaii community. We also recognize that collaborative research is one way to bring value under the constraints of limited resources.

We are very appreciative of your support as Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education in the introduction of these two resolutions. Kuakini is hopeful that these resolutions will receive the full support from your Committee, the House of Representatives, and the Legislature. Please contact us if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on the H.R. No. 9 and H.C.R. No. 18.

Sincerely,

KUAKINI MEDICAL CENTER



Gary K. Kajiwara
President and CEO