



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony Offering Comments for HCR0032, HD1
REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE
CANCER IN THE FIREFIGHTING PROFESSION**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 18, 2016

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health is willing to participate in a proposed Task
3 Force to examine issues relating to cancer risks for the firefighting profession in Hawaii.

4 Firefighters are potentially exposed to various mixtures of particulates, gases, mists, and
5 fumes of an organic and/or inorganic nature that may have acute, toxic and carcinogenic effects.
6 There are nearly 2,000 state and county firefighters in nearly 100 fire stations throughout Hawaii,
7 and for some, the long-term health consequences of workplace exposure to harmful toxicants
8 may only become apparent after retirement. The 2015 published study (Daniels RD, et al.) from
9 the national multi-year study to examine cancer among firefighters found slight but statistically
10 significant positive exposure-responses for lung cancer and leukemia risk.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.