

SB 39



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
And
Senate Committee on Higher Education**

February 6, 2009 at 2:50 pm

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Michele Carbone, M.D., Ph.D.
Interim Director

Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i
Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathology
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 39 RELATING TO REPORTS ON THE HAWAII CANCER RESEARCH SPECIAL FUND

Chair Ige, Chair Tokuda and members of the Committees:

As interim director of the UH Mānoa Cancer Research Center, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 39, which would require regular financial reports on the Cancer Research Special Fund. I am pleased to support this measure because it promotes transparency in financial accounting relating to this Special Fund.

Our efforts are directed at providing better cancer care to improve the health and well being of the people of Hawai'i – a great goal in which you, as members of Hawai'i's Legislature, are major partners through your establishment of this Special Fund. We are very grateful for your strong support.

There are two priorities on which we are focused at this time and, thankfully, can be accomplished through on-going funding from the State's cigarette-tax to the Special Fund. Those priorities are: 1) hiring faculty to provide the advances in cancer research and facilitate coordination of clinical trials and; 2) building the new Cancer Research Center facility to support those efforts. We are making progress in recruiting more talented researchers to the ranks of our existing excellent faculty and in the planning for the construction for the new cancer center

building which will serve as a demonstration of the community's collective commitment to this goal. In that way, we stay firmly on the path of meeting the high standards required to maintain our current National Cancer Institute designation and move toward the goal of a comprehensive cancer center designation.

Chancellor Hinshaw understands the importance of this effort to the University of Hawai'i and to the State of Hawai'i; and consequently she has asked me, as the interim Cancer Center director, to work with all due speed. As time is of the essence to continue our progress, I am working with the Center's program leaders, the leadership of our medical school and our local hospital systems for the purpose of maintaining our current NCI designation, to begin construction of the new Cancer Center building and to secure the foundation for the future of clinical cancer research in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on this issue.



February 6, 2009

Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Hearing:

2:50 P.M., Friday, February 6, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

RE: SB39 – Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund; Semi-Annual Report

Comments

Chair's Ige and Tokuda, and members of the Committee on Health, and the Committee on Higher Education. My name is George Massengale and I am the Director of Government Relations with the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments today on SB39. This bill requires the University of Hawaii to report semi-annually on the moneys in the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund including deposits, expenditures and other transactions.

We support the intent of this bill.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., was founded in 1948, and is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. This mission is consistent with the Society's ambitious 2015 goals of reducing deaths by cancer by 50%; reducing the incidence of cancer by 25%, and improving the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors by reducing the pain and suffering that cancer causes.

Three years ago the American Cancer Society strongly supported legislation that raised the cigarette tax in Hawaii and allocated a portion of the new revenues into the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund for a new CRCH research facility in Kakaako. In addition, monies in the fund could be utilized for operating expenses.

In October of last year a new program was launched in Maui to improve that island's access to oncologists. Until this program was launched Maui patients had to travel to Oahu for participation in clinical trials. We acknowledge and applaud CRCH for establishing this clinical trials program in Maui. No doubt this will make access to research treatments easier.

We also understand that there have been problems associated with initiating construction of the new research facility in Kakaako. The Society, along with many others, has concerns regarding the

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delays in moving this project forward. If requiring the University of Hawaii to report more frequently to the legislature on the status of this project will speed things up, then we would encourage passing this measure. **The bottom line is, the sooner this facility is in operation, the sooner lives will be saved.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Massengale', written in a cursive style.

George Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations

Written Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTH
Friday February 6, 2009
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
**SB 39 RELATING TO REPORTS ON THE
HAWAII CANCER RESEARCH SPECIAL FUND.**

Chairs Tokuda and Ige, Vice Chairs Sakamoto and Green and, Members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Health.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports and recommends additional language to SB 39 which proposes to require the University of Hawaii to report semi-annually on the moneys in the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund, including deposits, expenditures, and other transactions.

HTDC supports the development of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii (CRCH) in Kakaako and given the current economic and fiscal crisis is concerned that the moneys in the Cancer Research Special Fund will be diverted to fund needy and cash-strapped State programs to balance the budget.

As you are aware, HTDC's mission is to diversify Hawaii's economy through the facilitation and growth of the commercial high tech industry. Both the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and proposed CRCH (once built) support the growth of Hawaii's research and development niche which is critical to the growth of local tech entrepreneurs and startup

companies in Hawaii's growing biosciences fields including biomedical, bioinformatic, and biotechnology.

For the reasons above and a variety of other reasons including the need for action, we would support a more definitive approach than the proposed semi-annual reports in SB39. To accomplish this we suggest chairs of both committees and the administrator of the University of Hawaii Office of Capital Improvements (OCI), in collaboration, request written input from the University's CRCH project consultants including the project developer. Given the recent progress made by the University's Office of Capital Improvements, a written report by the University to the legislature could be completed by the first of March of this year. While highly specialized space such as research laboratories involve a great deal more planning and coordination with users, typical transaction and design milestones could be the trigger for generating reports. Such milestones would include (1) executed development agreement and notice to proceed, (2) completion of programming, (3) completion of concept design, (4) completion of schematic design, and (5) completion of design development. The reports would be due on the earlier of completion of such milestones or at the end of each calendar quarter commencing on June 30, 2009. These reports and actions should assure the commitment and need for funds contained in the CRCH Special Fund alongside these milestones and timelines, and prevent potential raiding of the fund for other non-CRCH purposes.

Given recent statements of the University before these committees, the CRCH project should be considered "shovel ready" and therefore can become an immediate financial and economic contributor to the State's current economic crisis. We have faith that all parties are able and willing to complete their roles sooner rather than later to accomplish what needs to be done for the State and its citizens – a national cancer research center helping to save lives in a

diverse multi-cultural community and an economic driver for tech-based research and development activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support with recommendations.