WHEREAS, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii was established by the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and outreach, with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawaii and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii is a research unit of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and currently employees two hundred eighty people, of whom thirty-four are core faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii currently conducts more than one hundred research projects in four programs: epidemiology, with a focus on nutrition, biostatistics, and genetics; natural products, which includes chemistry, cell/molecular biology, botany, biochemistry, immunology, and pharmacology; prevention and control, which focuses on clinical aspects of cancer and the reduction of incidence through interventions; and carcinogenesis, which examines how environmental and chemical carcinogens, viruses, and genetics interact; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 1,300,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer this year and in Hawaii, approximately five thousand men and women are diagnosed with the disease each year; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009, the University of Hawaii at Manoa announced plans to build a new cancer research facility in Kakaako, with construction expected to begin in 2010; and
WHEREAS, since 1996, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii has been a designated cancer center of the National Cancer Institute and must meet strict standards to receive designation and support; and

WHEREAS, the distinction of being a designated cancer center of the National Cancer Institute recognizes a cancer center's scientific excellence and capability to integrate a diversity of research approaches to focus on the problem of cancer; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii is one of only sixty-five National Cancer Institute designated centers in the United States, and is the only designated cancer center in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, four years ago, the National Cancer Institute recommended that the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii expand its capacity to house more researchers and physicians; this recommendation will be addressed with the construction of the new facility; and

WHEREAS, the unique and varied ethnic composition of the State presents researchers with opportunities to decrease the burden of cancer in high-risk groups, and to develop novel preventative and clinical strategies for the people of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii will work in consortium composed of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Queen's Medical Center, Hawaii Pacific Health, and other hospitals to offer patients the latest cancer therapies and clinical trials that would not otherwise be available; and

WHEREAS, a cutting edge research facility will help attract and retain top tier researchers; foster synergy and innovation between physicians, researchers, and students; and increase space and resource efficiencies, while bringing to the State $25,000,000 to $30,000,000 in grant funding annually; and

WHEREAS, the unique geographical location of Hawaii makes it imperative for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii to maintain its National Cancer Institute designation, ensuring
that the residents of Hawaii have access to the most current therapeutic options and clinical trials close to home; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that this body expresses strong support for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the National Cancer Institute, the President of the University of Hawaii System, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the Director of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

JAN 22 2010