



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By

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and

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HB 544 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa recognizes the importance of the UH Cancer Center building in sustaining cancer research in Hawai'i. UH also acknowledges that given significant declines in cigarette tax revenue and increased operational expenses, a supplemental revenue source for the UH Cancer Center must be obtained.

Ideally, the UH Cancer Center support would be a sustainable revenue stream, such as additional general fund support or conversion of the building bond debt service to a general obligation bond backed by the general fund. Such support would give UH more options through which it can strengthen the health sciences campus at Kaka'ako.

UH Mānoa and the health sciences leadership will also evaluate options to sell part or all of the UH Cancer Center building via a sale/lease back opportunity. The latter approach is less desirable as it complicates oversight and usage of the building that currently provides much community service and houses unique UH research that is enhancing the development of life science intellectual property and public-private partnerships which advance the health of all in Hawai'i.