

JAN 18 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CANCER RESEARCH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that liver cancer in
2 Hawaii occurs at extremely high rates. According to the United
3 States Center for Disease Control and the University of Hawai'i
4 Cancer Center, Hawaii has had the highest or second highest rate
5 of liver cancer in the country in recent years.

6 Every year in Hawaii there are one hundred eighty-four
7 newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer, including bile duct
8 cancer, according to the Hawaii Tumor Registry. From 2004 to
9 2013, available data on liver cancer indicates an annual
10 increase in Hawaii of 2.1 per cent in males and 1.3 per cent in
11 females, while the incidence of many other cancers such as
12 colon, lung, prostate, and stomach cancer declined. There are
13 currently about one thousand patients in Hawaii fighting liver
14 cancer and bile duct cancer, both of which are almost always
15 fatal.

16 Liver cancer, which starts in the liver and includes bile
17 duct cancer, is most commonly caused by the hepatitis B virus,



1 hepatitis C virus, and heavy alcohol consumption. In Hawaii
2 however, these factors are near the national average, which
3 suggests that other factors may be contributing to the high
4 occurrence of liver cancer in the State. Other factors that can
5 cause liver cancer are liver fluke infection (a type of
6 parasitic flatworm found in fish, shrimp, and vegetables grown
7 in fresh water) and eating foods containing aflatoxins (a fungus
8 abundant in warm and humid regions that can grow on foods such
9 as grains and nuts stored improperly). Since there is virtually
10 no data on liver fluke infection and aflatoxin exposure in
11 Hawaii, the State is unable to adequately make causative
12 connections between these factors and liver cancer.

13 The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center is preparing to
14 conduct a three-year, \$1,100,000 study to examine the prevalence
15 of liver fluke infection, aflatoxin ingestion, and intrahepatic
16 bile duct dilation in the general population and liver cancer
17 patients in Hawai'i, and examine any associations with
18 participant characteristics, such as ethnicity. The Cancer
19 Center has indicated that it will need \$340,000 for the first
20 year of the study and \$380,000 for each of the remaining years.



S.B. NO. 2049

1 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to the
2 University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine if the reasons
3 Hawai'i has the highest incidence in the country of liver and
4 bile duct cancer is due to liver fluke infection, aflatoxin
5 ingestion, and intrahepatic bile duct dilation in Hawaii.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$340,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
9 University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to determine the reasons that
10 Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer
11 in the country.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
13 Hawai'i for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2049

Report Title:

Cancer Research; Liver Cancer; UH Cancer Center; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the UH Cancer Center to determine the reasons that Hawai'i has the highest incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in the country.

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