



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

By

Loïc Le Marchand, MD, PhD

Associate Director for Community Outreach & Engagement, and Population Sciences  
Lani Park, PhD and Alike Maunakea, PhD, Principal Investigators

And

Naoto T. Ueno MD, PhD, Director  
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

And

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Interim Dean and Principal Investigator, Pacific Regional Central  
Cancer Registry (USAPI)

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UHCC) and John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) strongly supports HB 1301 HD1 which would appropriate revenues for UHCC to conduct a two-year preliminary study with the goal of establishing a long-term multi-ethnic cohort (MEC) study focusing on social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental and occupational exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos in the state of Hawai'i.

This funding would provide vital resources to help initiate a long-term follow-up study, which would provide critical data to improve the cancer disparities and promote health equity in populations that experience high rates for many common cancers and continue to be understudied and underserved.

National data typically aggregate health information for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) and, thereby, ignore the rich cultural and lifestyle diversity of these populations and mask their marked differences in cancer incidence and outcomes. UHCC has decades of research experience studying cancer disparities in AANHPI. Disaggregated data from the Hawai'i Tumor Registry (the State central cancer registry, operated by UHCC) show disparities in how early certain cancers are diagnosed (i.e., stage at diagnosis), in the number of new cancers detected each year (i.e., incidence), and in the proportion of deaths caused by

certain cancers in Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and Pacific Islanders residing in Hawai'i. Similarly, the Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry (the US Affiliated Pacific Islands central cancer registry, operated by JABSOM), shows significant cancer health disparities in late stage at diagnosis and extremely poor survival rates in cervical, oropharyngeal, uterine, and liver cancer among several of the populations indigenous to the USAPI. Many of the US Pacific Islander populations move to Hawai'i for educational and economic opportunities, as well as for health care.

Information by cancer site shows that Native Hawaiians have ones of the highest rates of lung, breast, colorectal, pancreatic, gastric, liver, endometrial and cervical cancers among other racial/ethnic groups in the US. Pacific Islanders also have high rates for many cancers that should be addressed through culturally tailored health education and prevention efforts, such as in smoking cessation and screening. Filipino Americans have high incidence rates for lung, colorectal and thyroid cancer in Hawai'i, and rapidly increasing rates of breast and prostate cancers. It is well-studied that certain types of cancer are heavily influenced by tobacco, dietary composition, and overweight/obesity. Additionally, there is a high correlation between poverty and food insecurity, tobacco use, obesity, and obesity-related chronic disease, including cancer. Studies conducted in the US, USAPI, and globally also indicate other socio-cultural impacts on cancer aside from poverty. Detailed epidemiological studies conducted by UHCC to date have shown that known lifestyle risk factors do not fully account for these risk differences. However, due to gaps in the available data, such as on social determinants of health and environmental and occupational exposures, the additional risk/resilience factors that drive these disparities remain unknown. A new cohort study that captures such information would directly address these research gaps.

The proposed two-year, state-funded project would establish the feasibility of recruiting participants for a long-term prospective study and greatly strengthen a federal grant application to NIH to fund the full-scale research. It will also build a strong partnership with these communities so as to define common priority research areas and assist with study recruitment and future dissemination of study findings. The budget needed to perform the two-year feasibility study is expected to be \$500,000 for Year 1 and \$500,000 for Year 2.

This new MEC study is highly needed, and the results will inform UHCC, JABSOM, and UH researchers' current and future work with Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino populations to address lifestyle, social, cultural, and economic determinants of cancer prevention, cancer screening, and early detection, treatment and survivorship.

The University of Hawai'i supports this measure, provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 12:04:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Cornett	UHCC	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia Kalo Cornett and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I thank you for the opportunity to **SUPPORT** HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the [leading](#) cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

I am a Cancer Survivor and I am working at University of Hawaii Cancer Center as a Health Care Advocate and Health care Worker. I try to sign up Tongan Samoan Hawaiian etc Women to get a Mammogram and I drive them to and back home. I currently have been doing this since June 2022-present. I am on a grant and I don't know how else to help our dispered community in Waianae, Hauula, Waimanalo, Wailua and all difficulties pockets parts of the island, I have not had a chance to get too the outer islands. This is my give back and my own journey and I am pleaing lets pass this HB1301 HD1 and get the Financial Backing of this committee please. I would love to see this thru.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including research. Data collection will aid future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kalo Cornett

Hauula, 96717 HI

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 5:45:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Vasconcellos	American cancer society action network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Vasconcellos and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

As a survivor of stage 3 non hodgekins lymphoma cancer and secondary male breast cancer. I'm now 17 plus cancer free. Also a survivor of colon cancer stage 1. Now a survivor for now 8 years. So I ask humbly to support us in this bill submitted to you.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including research. Data collection will aid future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,

Mark vasconcellos

Honolulu, 96822



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023; 1:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1301, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO CANCER.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1301, RELATING TO CANCER.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, for a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. The funds would be expended by the University of Hawaii, and require the University to seek additional funds to complete the multi-cohort study.

This bill also clarifies that cancer research focusing on Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos is a matter of statewide concern, and would take effect on June 30, 2024.

The goal of medical research is to develop safe and effective methods to prevent, detect, diagnose, treat and ultimately cure the collection of diseases known as cancer. The better we understand these diseases, the more progress we will make toward diminishing the tremendous human and economic toll disease inflicts upon our citizenry.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1301, House Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2023; 1:30 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

Nearly 10 years ago, the HPCA testified in support of House Bill No. 1616, Regular Session of 2014, a measure that would add to the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives and policies for health, the identification of social determinants of health and prioritization of programs, services, interventions, and activities that address identified social determinants of health to improve Native Hawaiian health in accordance with federal law and reduce health disparities of disproportionately affected demographics.

We noted in our testimony that House Bill No. 1616, seeks to:

*" . . . identify those specific social determinants that adversely affect Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. As these populations make a sizeable percentage of patients seen by community health centers, the HPCA strongly supports this measure."*

This bill was enacted as Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

Ten years later, we continue to recognize the importance of social determinants of health on the health care outcomes and quality of life of Hawaii's most vulnerable, marginalized, and isolated constituencies. The more we learn the better we are able to act.

**The HPCA strongly supports this important measure and commends the introducer for offering this proposal. We urge your favorable consideration.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.





American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hi 96817  
808.460.6109  
[www.fightcancer.org](http://www.fightcancer.org)

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

**ACS CAN SUPPORTS HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.**

Cynthia Au, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Guam  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to **SUPPORT** HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society advocates for public policies that reduce death and suffering from cancer. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year. Cancer incidence and mortality rates have decreased in Hawaii over the last decade, but despite this overall reduction, the disparities between ethnic populations continue to be of concern. Cancer is the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities. The cancer death rate is 20% higher for individuals from the US counties with the lowest average of incomes compared to counties with a higher average of incomes. To aid in research, collecting data to include Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Asian groups including Filipinos. will help to provide information on the contributing factors to cancer disparities that currently exist. According to the US Census, there are currently over 200,000 Filipinos in the state. Data collection will aid in future research to improve health outcomes for these minority populations.

The University of Hawaii Cancer Center is one of 71 research organizations in the U.S. designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the only one in the Hawaii Pacific region.<sup>1</sup> Its mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, patient care and community outreach with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural and environmental characteristics of Hawaii and the Pacific. Cancer research focusing on Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos is unique to Hawaii and the university of Hawaii cancer center and thus cannot be easily conducted anywhere else in the world.

All individuals should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including in research.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT on this important matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Government Relations Director Cynthia Au at 808.460.6109, or [Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org](mailto:Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org).

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<sup>1</sup> University of Hawaii Cancer Center <https://www.uhcancercenter.org/50years>

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 11:34:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Filipino and my family has a history of cancer and diabetes. Understanding how future generations or how my current family can prevent getting cancer will help everyone.

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:52:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Hausler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Hausler and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I thank you for the opportunity to **SUPPORT HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.**

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the [leading](#) cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

I have lost two husbands, a sister and too many others to this terrible disease.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

As an Asian American, I have been a participant in the Multi Ethnic Cohort Study for over 28 years and know that it has significantly contributed to lowering cancer deaths over the years.

Now I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including research. Data collection will aid future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hausler

Pearl City, Hawaii 96782



**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:20:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Shimabuku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1: Relating to Cancer. There is a need for the UH Cancer Center to continue working on research involving the disparate and minority populations in Hawaii. This is an important effort to fund as cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Please consider passing this measure.

Mahalo!

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:34:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Naomi Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:**

**My name is Naomi Manuel and I humbly urge you to SUPPORT House Bill 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.**

**Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year. Cancer is the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.**

**As a Native Hawaiian Filipino Pacific Islander raised in Hawaii, I have personally witnessed many family members and members of my community die of cancer at a disproportionate rate when compared to other ethnic groups. I am highly vested in the intent of HB 1301 HD1 to gather and analyze critical data, not only to understand the social determinants of health and environmental elements of cancer disparities but also that House Bill 1301 HD1 puts a focus on prevention strategies rather than just treatment. This collection of data will support future research to improve health equity, health outcomes, and quality of life for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.**

**I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.**

**Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify and strongly urge your support of HB 1301 HD1.**

**Naomi Manuel**

**Kahalu'u, O'ahu**

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of House Committee on Finance

RE: Strong Support of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 1:30 pm, Conference Room 308

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Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cheryl K. Okuma and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I thank you for the opportunity to **SUPPORT** HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Cancer has touched myself, my own family and friends in its many different forms and across the generations. My family is of Japanese and Okinawan descent, and know the impact this disease has—socially, emotionally and financially. Such a multi-ethnic study is a positive step in the direction of progress in our fight against cancer. Understanding cancer within the context of our multi-ethnic community is vital towards that effort.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Achieving progress against cancer means the inequities that exist in cancer care must be eliminated, and this includes the important research that is needed. Unique to the people of Hawaii, is that we are comprised of minority populations. As such, data collection is a critical and necessary step towards the future research needed to improve health equity access for minority populations.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl K. Okuma  
Wailuku, Maui 96793



**McKayla McCullah**  
[mckaylamccullah20@gmail.com](mailto:mckaylamccullah20@gmail.com)

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of House Committee on Finance

RE: Strong Support of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 1:30 pm, Conference Room 308

Aloha, my name is McKayla McCullah. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1301 HD1:  
Relating to Cancer.

As a young Native Hawaiian woman and a member of the Wai'anae community, to see the negative impact of health disparities isn't uncommon to me. Some of the most common leading causes of death amongst Native Hawaiians are cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. As a granddaughter and a niece to those who have fought against these diseases and have lost and to some who are still fighting, this research to me would mean that there are people who still care about using their skills and talents to do what they can for these people that I care about and my community. To have research focus on being done for multi-ethnic communities, means that someone sees us; thanks to the UH Cancer Research Center we have experts who want to focus more on the people of their land. With the help from you, this can continue. According to the UH Cancer Research Center in 2018, "Hawai'i men and women had higher incidence of cancers of the liver and intrahepatic bile duct and stomach compared to the US overall." By finding and researching these facts of our Native Hawaiian communities, we can get to the roots of these problems and hopefully find more solutions. As a Kamehameha Alumni and a beneficiary child of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a Hawaiian princess who had done nothing but give back to her people and who had also passed from breast cancer, I ask that you help us fight this fight for her and for our communities.

I ask the committee to support this very important bill and to pass it out of the Committee.

Sincerely,  
McKayla McCullah  
8087457442  
[mckaylamccullah20@gmail.com](mailto:mckaylamccullah20@gmail.com)

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of House Committee on Finance

RE: Strong Support of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 1:30 pm, Conference Room 308

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Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle Hashimoto, a Puunui resident and long time cancer fighter in my community. I am also an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. As a *caregiver for my father who battled cancer, a concerned parent, and an active community member*, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

My 86-year old father was diagnosed with esophageal cancer a few months before his passing. Although he didn't pass from cancer, please know that through studies like the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) study, lifesaving findings help folks like my father get diagnosed earlier, have more treatment options, and **better health outcomes**. Our families and friends need your support for today ... for our future.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including research. Data collection will aid future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Hashimoto  
2533 Stream Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 741-5854

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:57:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are Hundreds of Natural Cures for cancer. But this is Keep from the People Because the Drug Companys make to Much Money feeding the People Drugs/ Are you working for the People Or the Drug Companys We need to know!!!!

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of House Committee on Finance

RE: Strong Support of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 1:30 pm, Conference Room 308

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chandra Quinlan and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

As a 9-year breast cancer survivor of Filipino descent, cancer prevention and equitable access to care is very personal for me. My cousin Angela was diagnosed last summer with HER2+ breast cancer while our cousin Marisa continues her 12+year fight with thyroid cancer. Our grandma Evelyn, who emigrated from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, died of lung cancer with brain metastases in 1992. We've lost other family members to cancer as well.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawai'i with 2,500 deaths each year, the leading cause of death among Asian Americans, and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to conduct a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including research. Data collection will aid future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawai'i.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,  
Chandra Quinlan  
Waipahu, 96797