



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

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

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 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 Kim, Vice Chair Kidani 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, provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. This measure 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 (USAPI) 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 one 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 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 and to improve lifestyle, social, cultural, and economic determinants of cancer prevention, cancer screening, and early detection, treatment and survivorship.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**HB1301 HD1**  
**RELATING TO CANCER**  
Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 21, 2023

3:15 PM

Room 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1301 HD1, which would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center 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.

As the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians<sup>1</sup> and with the constitutional and statutory obligations to ever-seek the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians,<sup>2</sup> **OHA takes care to note that Native Hawaiians face disturbingly greater health inequities and disparities with a higher rate of chronic diseases;<sup>3</sup> Native Hawaiians face a 1.96 times higher rate of cancer;<sup>4</sup> cancer is one of the leading causes of death for Native Hawaiians;<sup>5</sup> more Native Hawaiians die of specific cancer than any other racial or ethnic group in the State;<sup>6</sup> Hawai 'i's breast cancer death rate for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander women was 2.90 times higher than the overall population with Native Hawaiian women having the lowest five-year cancer survivorship than the overall population.<sup>7</sup>** The Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine noted that these disparities stem, in part, from lack of culturally appropriate interventions, late detection, diagnoses at more advanced stages, genetic markers of tumor aggressiveness, and a higher prevalence of tobacco use<sup>8</sup> - all of which are factors being to be addressed by the multi-ethnic cohort to be assembled through this measure's proposal.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support HB1301 HD1 and **respectfully asks the Legislature to PASS HB1301 HD1**, for the betterment of the health of the people of Hawai'i. Loa'a ke ola i Hālaauaola. Mahalo nui loa.

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<sup>1</sup> HRS §10-3(3).

<sup>2</sup> Haw. Stat. Con. Art. XII, Sections 4-6 (1978); Haw. Stat. Rev. §10-3(1) and (2).

<sup>3</sup> Department of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p.9.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Id. at 10.

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Id.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 3:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, 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, House Draft 1, 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, 3000.

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, March 21, 2023; 3:15 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.

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 6:50:49 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha

I would like to submit my civil best article,plus to add,this bill speaks volumes for me personally. I am a 2 time Breast Cancer Survivor and when I was given a choice to do a Clinical Trial or Not,I was compared to an African American 50 year old woman, becuae the trials are geared closely to Hispanic, White, African American,Japanese,Asian, etc. My Tongan background decent and with that note, We Need To Do More Research this bill will help us do that specifically assist with the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander & Filipinos, this MultiEthnic Cohort Research is needed to further our Saving Lives..

Mahalo



## 'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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### 2022-2023 Advocacy Committee

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March 19th, 2023

### COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

### Group Testimony in Support of HB1301 HD1 RELATING TO CANCER

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai`i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We strongly support bill HB1301 HD1 as it directly aims to better understand and ultimately address health disparities that our communities have suffered through disproportionately for many years. Recently, one of our founding members, Dr. Clayton Chong, passed after dedicating his career to oncology care for Native Hawaiians and others facing the challenge of cancer. This study would be an a valuable continuation of his legacy.

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:17:45 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adam Zarrin	Testifying for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Adam Zarrin, and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Our mission is to cure blood cancers and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

We are testifying in support of HB1301, relating to cancer and a multi-ethnic cohort study.

The focus of the study would be to identify reasons for the disproportionately high risk of chronic diseases among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. The study will also suggest new ways to address these long-standing disparities.

These first steps will help develop new therapies for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses. These conditions require extensive research and innovation and depend on foundational research like this.

History has shown us that not all patients have had the same opportunity or consideration in clinical research. For example, those from historically marginalized groups are often under-represented in clinical trials.

Such a lack of diversity among people participating is problematic on multiple levels. It impacts our understanding of how effective new drugs might be across populations and how to reduce disparities in access to treatment.

We are excited that Hawaii can be a leader in addressing health equity in underrepresented communities, and we hope you will support HB1301.

Thank you.





## Hawaii Medical Association

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Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle N Kidani, Vice Chair

Date: March 21, 2022  
From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Bernard Robinson, MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

**Re: HB 1301 HD1 Relating to Cancer**  
**Position: Support**

This measure would appropriate funds to 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 Filipinos.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii. Overall cancer mortality (death) is highest for native Hawaiian males and females, and cancer incidence of mortality varies substantially across our racial/ethnic groups. Disparities in risk and outcomes may be caused by genetic variations, differences in diet, tobacco and alcohol use, obesity, and other lifestyle exposures. Additionally, these factors must be considered within the context of social and community conditions. Advanced longitudinal epidemiological studies are essential to understanding cancer prevention, detection and treatment for the diverse population of Hawaii.

HMA strongly supports the appropriation of funds towards multi-ethnic cohort study including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. As complex cancer diagnoses and therapies advance, it is important that Hawaii research focuses on social determinants in cancer care, particularly for our underrepresented minority communities.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

#### References and Quick Links:

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. [Hawai'i Cancer At A Glance 2014-2018. Hawai'i Tumor Registry 2022](#). Accessed 3/19/2023.

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. Hernandez B. [Hawai'i Tumor Registry – Tracking the Burden of Cancer Statewide](#). Accessed 3/19/2023.

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. [The Multi Ethnic Cohort Study. Main Scientific Contributions](#). Accessed 3/19/2023.

#### 2023 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Angela M. Pratt, MD, President • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President Elect • Michael Champion, MD, Immediate Past President  
Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

#### 2023 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, Chair • Beth England, MD, Co-Chair  
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



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

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 21, 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.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year. This year approximately 8,460 residents of Hawaii will be diagnosed with the disease. 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. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have one of the highest incidence rates of breast, lung, colorectal, cervical, pancreatic, gastric and liver cancers among all U.S. racial/ethnic populations.

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 cannot be easily conducted anywhere else in the world. Findings will further help with receiving future research grants from National Cancer Institute specific to these minority populations.

All individuals should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. However, cancer does not affect everyone equally. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including in research.

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.

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).

**LATE**

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:56:26 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raymond Sebastian	Testifying for Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Raymond Sebastian and I am the President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, the federation of Oahu-based Filipino associations. OFCC has been in existence since June 1959, two months before the statehood of Hawaii. In fact, we were organized to prepare the Filipinos once Hawaii becomes a part of great nation called the United States of America. Historically and in our consciousness, the Filipino immigrants in Hawaii then, and until today, would identify themselves as Filipino-Hawaiians first, before they would consider themselves as Filipino-Americans.

The concept and definition of “American Dream” from the perspective of a Filipino immigrant in Hawaii is very different. We have our own “Hawaiian Dream”. Historically, we were your sugarcane and pineapple plantation workers. Stereotypically, we are your manual laborers at constructions sites, yard workers and housekeeping employees at hotels. But we also have assimilated ourselves well into this land that we now call our home. After more than a century since the first plantation workers arrived via ship, we have assimilated ourselves well into the greater Hawaiian community and we are not just the stereotypical Filipinos most think of who we are. Some of us have a seat in this Legislative Hall, doctors and nurses, lawyers and businessmen, bankers and managers; in other words, as the largest ethnic group in the state, we are an integral part in shaping the landscape of Hawaii.

However, as much as we have integrated ourselves in this land through the years, there are factors that unknowingly sickens us with the big “C”, and eventually kills us. Cancer knows no race as stated in the House Bill 1301, Filipino women have the highest incidences of ovarian and thyroid cancer in Hawaii. Currently, I have family three family friends who are suffering from cancer and recently lost one who was diagnosed when hers was at stage 4.

We could be one of the most hardworking population but is working hard causing us cancer? Why are we working so hard? We earn dollars to support our multi-generational families here and in the Philippines so we take whatever jobs that we can, but is our job causing us cancer? Sometimes, we experience language barrier since English is not our primary language and we don’t understand verbal and written instructions, is this causing us unintentional exposure to harm leading us to having cancer?

The HB1301 is a must and necessary for approval, not only for us Filipinos but for our brothers and sisters, the Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The University of Hawaii Cancer Center

needs to conduct this multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos in order to determine the preventive measures, ways to educate, and possibly even lead to a cure to this dreaded disease that have may killed at least one that each of us loved, cared for, or at least knew.

Thank you.

## McKayla McCullah

[mckaylamccullah20@gmail.com](mailto:mckaylamccullah20@gmail.com)

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

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 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 pua of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a Hawaiian princess who had done nothing but give back to her people and passed due to breast cancer, I ask that you help us fight this fight for her and for our communities. I ask that you help fight this fight for my great-grandmother, Princess Pauahi, for Mrs. McGregor, the young mother I shared a coffee with at my Nanakuli Starbucks, my Kumu Lilinoe, for Denys Chow, for Rell Sunn, Aunty Pua from Makaha, Yvette Scribner, and the many others amongst our communities who are fighting against cancer.

Mahalo for your time and service.

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

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 2:24:25 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We know a lot about cancer and its myriad determinants thanks to a 20+ year cohort study focused on Japanese Americans in Hawaii and California. But we know almost nothing about how cancer emerges among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. We can change this.

Cancer is the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals. Please fund a new multi-ethnic cohort study by the University of Hawaii Cancer Center focused on these groups, which are well represented among Hawaii's population.

The facts:

- 8,460 Hawaii residents will be diagnosed with cancer this year.
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with an estimated 2,620 deaths this year.
- Breast cancer incidence and mortality were highest among Native Hawaiian women compared to any other racial or ethnic group in Hawaii.
- Lung cancer incidence is higher among Native Hawaiians as well as Filipinos.
- There are over 200,000 Filipinos in Hawaii. For every 4 people, one has Filipino ancestry.
- Initial funding of the study will increase research opportunities for additional funding as a National Cancer Institute research program.

Thank you for your consideration!

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 7:52:29 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.



**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 8:21:43 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Benita Brazier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of HB1301 Relating to Cancer.

Research is critical to understand and reduce cancer disparities as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery.

As you might remember when research was done on Heart disease only men were used in the study and women were excluded. It was found that research was necessary to address women's needs. The same here, we must eliminate the inequities that exist in both cancer care and treatment.

Data collection will aid in future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawai'i.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD 1.

Mahalo.

Benita Brazier

Honolulu,96817

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 3:05:07 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: The Hon.Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

The Hon. Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 pm, Conference Room 2

The Hon. Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Hausler and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Along with my sister and late mother, I have been a participant of the original Multi Ethnic Cohort Study these past 28 years, and I know of the value of this study which first included apanese Americans in Hawaii and California. Now it needs to include Filiipinos, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders to keep them living longer.

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 including the identification of new cancer risk factors which can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer disparities and promote health equity.

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, 96782

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 6:03:51 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

I humbly urge your SUPPORT of House Bill 1301 House Draft 1 – 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

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:16:29 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I strong support this bill. My mother was a Filipina woman and she died of a very aggressive uterine cancer within 7 months of being diagnosed. I would love to know if there are any links to her ethnicity, cultural practices, etc. that made her (and me and my daughters) more vulnerable to this heartwrenching disease.

-Becky Gardner

Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, 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 am in STRONG **SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Cancer has touched myself, my own family (most recently a brother) 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.

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. Research will examine gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities. It will help to identify new cancer risk factors. Research can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer disparities and promote health equity.

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

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl K. Okuma  
Wailuku, 96793

Rebecca "Becki" Ward  
Honolulu, 96816

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

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Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rebecca "Becki" Ward and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. I thank you for the opportunity to **SUPPORT** – RELATING TO CANCER, as fighting cancer is an issue I strongly support, based on personal experience.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii, with 2,500 deaths each year. It 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.

I lost my husband to prostate cancer in 2006, and this experience has motivated me to get involved so that declining numbers of families ever have to deal with this illness and loss. I was in volunteer leadership with the American Cancer Society for 10 years, served on a national ACS Research Grant Peer Review Committee, and now serve on the Community Advisory Board of the UH Cancer Center. I know firsthand that 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,  
Rebecca "Becki" Ward  
Honolulu, 96816

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

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Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:  
My name is Lourdes V. Marcelo, Registered Nurse, from Mililani. I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

My eldest daughter was diagnosed with right breast Cancer, Stage last Dec. 2021. She has 2 children, 1 in college and the youngest is in High School. She went into deep depression and unbearable emotional anxiety thinking what will happen to her 2 children if she succumbed to the deadly C. Luckily, she has a very compassionate, knowledgeable Oncologist at Queens MC. She underwent rt. radical Mastectomy, Chemotherapy and Radiation. She lost her hair, fingernails turned black, however she is alive and cured. She is taking daily RX for Cancer and goes for blood test q 3 months. I believe in early detection in saving lives. Today she is fully employed. Her son is graduating this June 2023, Electrical Engineering & her youngest daughter will graduate HS this June 2023 as well. This are her gifts. She was motivated to get well, take all the therapy recommended a& the meds because she wasn't sot witness the milestones of the children

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 including the identification of new cancer risk factors which can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer disparities and promote health equity.

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,   
Lourdes V. Marcelo, RN

Mililani, HI 96789  
Tel : 808 623 7109



**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:26:39 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
marianela jacob	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will help the Filipino/Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in determining their risks , chances of survival, and improving their life in relation to the diagnosis of cancer. There has been an increase in rate of cancers to these population. This study hopefully will determine or pinpoint a common factor that causes cancer to To Fil/Am/ Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Marianela Jacob APRN,FNP-BC

**LATE**

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 4:01:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lourdes Vergara Marcelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

20 March 2023

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

Re: Support of HB 1301 HDI – Relating to Cancer

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

Chair: Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lourdes Vergara Marcelo, a resident of Mililani, Hawaii. I am a Registered Nurse. I am an Advocate for the American Society Cancer Action Network. **I am a Strong Supporter of the HB 1301 HDI– Relating to Cancer.**

My eldest daughter was diagnosed with Right Breast Cancer Stage 2, December 2021. She went into deep depression, what with the holidays coming up and she went into unbearable emotional anxiety. All she was thinking then was, what will happen to her 2 children, 1 in college and the youngest in high school. Luckily, she has a great Oncologist from Queens Medical Center. She underwent a Radical Right Mastectomy, chemo, therapy and Radiation.

She lost her hair, her fingernails and toe nails turned black, however the Cancer cells were eradicated. Thanks for early detection & intervention through self-examination, Mammogram and consultation.

Today she has resumed her full-time job as Civil Engineer and her son will be graduating as an Electrical Engineer in June 2023. Her youngest daughter is graduating senior this June 2023 as well the above were her motivation to get all the recommended treatments and procedures. Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 cases each year, the leading cause of death among the Asian Americans the the leading cause of death after heart disease among the Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities as well as seaming gaps in Cancer prevention and d care delivery that contribute to these disparities including the

identification of new Cancer risk factors which can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer r disparities and promote health equality.

I am a parent of a Cancer survivor. My daughters' pain, her struggle and were mine too. I was with her, cried with her, suffered with her and prayed with her when the surgery and other procedures were all done. I am sure as a mother you too can related to this.

**Please support and allocate fundings for the HB1301 HD1: Relating to Cancer.**

**Lourdes Vergara Marcelo, RN, CD, CM**

**CEO/ Adm. Lous's Quality Home Health Care Services, LLC**

**CEO, Adm. Advanced Care Training, LLC**

**Mililani, Hawaii, 96789**

**Tel: 808 623 710, 808 623 1777, email: [lou@louscare.com](mailto:lou@louscare.com) or [lou.marcelo@yahoo.com](mailto:lou.marcelo@yahoo.com)**

**LATE**

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:09:55 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conan Wykes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

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Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Conan Wykes and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

I am a Native Hawaiian and have had several family members taken by cancer, including my father. Supporting cancer research can promote the cure of cancer or at least reduce the chances of others losing their loved ones 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 including the identification of new cancer risk factors which can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer disparities and promote health equity.

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,

Conan Wykes

Honolulu, 96822

**LATE**

**Chandra Quinlan  
Waipahu, 96797**

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Hrg: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

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Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chandra Quinlan and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

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

Like too many families in Hawaii, mine has felt the devastating impact of cancer. My grandma Evelyn, a non-smoker who emigrated from Ilocos Norte, Philippines in 1946, died in 1992 at age 67 of lung cancer that had already metastasized to her brain. In 2014, I was diagnosed with mucinous carcinoma of the breast at age 46. My older (by 2 years) cousin Marisa had already been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and continues to fight that cancer that's spread to her lungs. Just last year, our younger cousin Angela, was diagnosed and treated for HER2+ breast cancer. I'm sure my grandma never wished any of her granddaughters would get cancer and my hope is none of her other ohana do either.

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 including the identification of new cancer risk factors which can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer disparities and promote health equity.

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,  
Chandra Quinlan  
Waipahu, 96797

**LATE**

**HB-1301-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:25:16 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Conchita Cadiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Conchita Cadiz and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Action Network. I am in strong SUPPORT of HB 1301 HD relating to CANCER.

I was affected with endometrial CA in 2018 and was surprised being a victim of CA. I am of Filipino descent and am a citizen of the USA, born on the Big Island in 1943. I feel that my Filipino culture and upbringing brings value to our lives. I am a retired RN and feel that supporting/researching this topic of CA will greatly contribute to our community to prevent and treat this disease.

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 Island 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 including the identification of new cancer risk factors which can lead to new intervention approaches to reduce cancer disparities and promote health equity.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live in 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 the HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely,

Conchita Cadiz

Waipahu, 96797