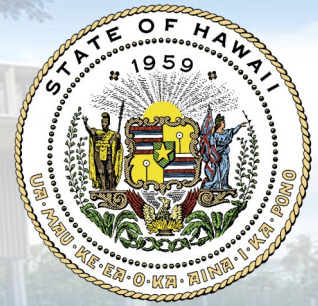


HAWAII STATE SENATOR BREENE HARIMOTO

OCTOBER 2019 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PEARL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD



Aloha!

In the past legislative session, the legislature appropriated \$6.5 million in matching funds to build the Hawaii Early Phase Cancer Research Center at the University of Hawaii (UH) Cancer Center. This project is critically important for cancer patients in Hawaii as it will be the first facility of its kind here in the

islands. I am pleased to report that UH has received a \$6.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to complete the project. Please see the attached article for more information.

With just over two months left until the start of the 2020 legislative session, I welcome your input and suggestions on proposed legislation that could be introduced and considered in the upcoming year. Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns relating to state matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (808) 586-6230 or email me at senharimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo and God Bless,

Breene Harimoto
Senator, District 16

Calendar of Events

October

- 22** Pearl City Neighborhood Board, 7:00 p.m. at Waiiau District Park
- 26** Halloween Keiki Costume Contest, Program begins at 8:00 a.m. at Pearl City Shopping Center
- 26** Stuck on Aloha—Book Launch and Signing, 11:00 a.m. at Pearl City Shopping Center
- 31** Pearl City Foundation's Halloween Bash, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Momilani Community Center

November

- 11** *Holiday: Veteran's Day*
- 11** Aiea Neighborhood Board (Recess)
- 26** Pearl City Neighborhood Board, 7:00 p.m. at Waiiau District Park
- 28** *Holiday: Thanksgiving*

December

- 9** Aiea Neighborhood Board, 7:00 p.m. at Aiea Public Library Program Room
- 25** *Holiday: Christmas*

UH Cancer Center receives \$6.5M for state's first cutting edge research clinic

The [University of Hawai'i Cancer Center](#) received a \$6.5 million grant from the [National Institutes of Health](#) to build a Clinical Research Center that will significantly improve access to experimental treatments for cancer patients in Hawai'i. The clinic will focus on early phase clinical trials and be the first of its kind in the state.

The Early Phase Cancer Clinical Research Center will be named Ho'ōla, Hawaiian for healing. It will provide access to phase 1 trials for cancer patients in Hawai'i so they do not have to travel to the continental U.S. for specialized treatments. Phase 1 trials represent the cutting edge of cancer treatments and are often considered when patients have a particularly challenging form of cancer or when standard treatments have been unsuccessful.

The federal funds match the \$6.5 million approved by the state Legislature this past session. The \$13 million total will be used to construct the Clinical Research Center, in 36,000 square feet of existing shell space at the UH Cancer Center in Kaka'ako.



Interior render

“We are extremely grateful to the state Legislature and the National Institutes of Health for recognizing the need of this program and the exceptional value it will provide for the people of Hawai'i,” said UH Cancer Center Director **Randall Holcombe**. “The center will be focused on finding new treatments for patients and providing them to our residents without the expense and difficulties of travel to another NCI-designated center on the mainland.”

Approximately 6,700 people are diagnosed with cancer each year in Hawai'i. The research center will serve an estimated 100 to 200 patients annually who would have otherwise had to travel out of state for treatment.

“I am so pleased to learn that the UH Cancer Center has received full funding to build the Early Phase Cancer Clinical Trials Center,” said state Sen. Breene Harimoto. “As the first facility of its kind in Hawai'i, the center will offer hope for Hawai'i residents battling advanced cancers by providing them with the opportunity to participate in early phase clinical trials without having to leave the state. This greatly reduces the financial, physical, and emotional hardships of having to travel to the mainland for treatment that may be their last hope.”

The development of a program in Early Phase Cancer Clinical Trials, and recruitment of the faculty physicians, nurses and pharmacists, is a joint venture of the UH Cancer Center, the University of Hawai'i and clinical partners in the Hawai'i Cancer Consortium—Hawai'i Pacific Health, Kuakini Medical Center and the Queen's Medical Center.

“Every patient seen in Ho'ōla will participate in a clinical research study, and therefore it will be wholly complementary and 'value-added' for cancer patients and oncology providers in the state.” said Holcombe. “It will be a statewide resource to enable advances in cancer treatment that are of particular importance to our diverse population here in Hawai'i.”

The research center will further expand the research capabilities of the university. The UH Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The center's 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 Hawai'i and the Pacific. The center employs 300 faculty and staff, with another 200 affiliate members through the Hawai'i Cancer Consortium.



Interior render

Source: University of Hawai'i News, September 26, 2019, <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2019/09/26/cancer-center-cutting-edge-research-clinic/>