



February 12, 2024

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

Re: STRONG SUPPORT of SB2722 - Relating to Cancer

Hrg: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 3:00 pm, Conference Room 229

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii 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. Collecting and understanding data from communities in Hawaii will help to reduce cancer disparities in cancer prevention and care delivery.

HPHA humbly asks for your SUPPORT of SB 2722 for state funding of \$1 million over two years of a multi-ethnic cohort study by the University of Hawaii Cancer Center of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Asian groups including Filipinos.

Thank you for allowing HPHA the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director