First public release of architectural renderings for new Cancer Research Center of Hawaii

HONOLULU – The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii released today the first architectural renderings of the new Cancer Research Center of Hawaii. The detailed renderings depict a state-of-the-art building, constructed to the highest standards with many sustainable features. Designers integrated local architectural elements such as wood, panoramic windows and breezeways, so that the facility will complement existing area architecture and natural surroundings.

Construction of the building in Kakaako will begin this fall. Contractor Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc. will work with sub-contractor Structure Tone to provide design assist services. Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc. is a local employee-owned corporation and Structure Tone is a large U.S. construction company headquartered in New York City.

Both firms are experienced in constructing educational and research buildings. The A.C. Kobayashi company has worked previously with the University of Hawaii Mānoa on the Cloning Laboratory and the Center for Microbiological Oceanographic Research and Education. Structure Tone has constructed some of the nation’s leading research buildings including the University of Pennsylvania’s Abramson Cancer Center and Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

The advanced stage of the design process is a critical indicator of progress towards breaking ground on the long-awaited project. Building completion is expected in 2013. “The project planning and design team have excelled in their investigative work,” said UH Mānoa Chancellor Dr. Virginia Hinshaw. “They have produced a cutting-edge research and work environment that exceeds project requirements, while complying with constraints.” The facility will span six floors to the height limit of 100 feet and encompass 150,000 square feet. Construction costs are estimated at $100 million with project financing through university revenue bonds.

Months of accelerated planning and design work have been conducted by the team comprised of project manager, Kobayashi Group, and architect firms Shimokawa Nakamura, ZGF Architects LLP of Los Angeles and Jacobs Consultancy of New York City. In addition to space, cost and height limitations, the project designers and planners considered input from the community and Cancer Center researchers and staff on such features as sustainability, community access, natural lighting, energy efficiency and energy-saving technology.

Specific features of the new building will include wet and dry labs equipped with the most advanced technology, open workspaces with natural lighting; communal work areas to foster discussion; public and private meeting rooms; and tropical
landscaping to enhance tranquility and a connection with the outdoor environment.

“We are on the brink of a new era for cancer research in Hawaii,” said Michele Carbone, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Cancer Research Center. “The construction of a world-class facility here in our state will help us reduce the burden of cancer locally and globally, while serving the people of Hawaii for generations to come.”