UH Cancer Center Addresses New State Cancer Plan Priorities

HONOLULU – As a member of the Hawai'i Comprehensive Cancer Coalition, the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center actively addresses the cancer burdens unveiled in the Hawai'i State Cancer Plan 2016-2020.

At the plan launch on December 14, guest panelist and UH Cancer Center director, Dr. Randall Holcombe, emphasized the importance of cancer research in Hawai'i. "Hawai'i's racial and ethnic mixture makes us unique in the types, incidence and mortality of cancer we face in our state. This makes it critical for us to continue developing and providing new approaches for cancer prevention and treatment to our communities."

The plan outlines priority objectives under four major goals: prevention, early detection, equitable access to care, and quality of life. It was developed by dozens of key stakeholders across Hawai'i to help reduce the burden of cancer in our state.

More than 6,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Hawai'i each year, while 2,000 die from the disease each year. As the only National Cancer Institute designated center in Hawai'i and the Pacific, the UH Cancer Center provides unique opportunities for research and patient care to support objectives in the new plan.

The plan is in line with the national Cancer Moonshot Initiative highlighted at its unveiling. The goal of the initiative led by Vice President Joe Biden is to double the rate of progress in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care over the next five years to ultimately end cancer as we know it. The UH Cancer Center held a Cancer Moonshot Summit on June 29, 2016 in conjunction with summits held in Washington, DC and across the nation.

"Many of us have been or will be affected by cancer. Through the power of collaboration, we have an opportunity to fight together and end this disease," said Cancer Coalition Chair Dr. Shane Morita.

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center through its various activities, cancer trial patients and their guests, and other visitors adds more than $54 million to the O'ahu economy. This is equivalent to supporting 776 jobs. It is one of only 69 research institutions designated by the National Cancer Institute. Affiliated with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, the center is dedicated to eliminating cancer through research, education, and improved patient care. Learn more at www.uhcancercenter.org. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UHCancerCenter. Follow us on Twitter @UHCancerCenter.