FIFTH GRADERS RAISE MORE THAN $4,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH IN HAWAI'I

HONOLULU – 11-year-old local fifth graders raised more than $4,000 for cancer research at the University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center. The three girls are passionate about funding research in honor of relatives who have battled the disease.

The three girls, Kiyera Werny, Devyn Goo and Kendall Kirton – all students at Punahou School - raised money through a series of bake sales. Last year the girls donated $760 to breast cancer specific research at the Center. Kiyera's aunt and Devyn’s great grandmother are both breast cancer survivors.

"We were inspired by every brave cancer survivor out there. We hope that one day we will beat cancer entirely and that nobody will ever have to suffer again," said Kiyera.

The girls are the youngest known donors to the Center. They used the motto, "Every penny counts," which they said helped them surpass their original $1,000 goal.

"It is inspiring to see the girls passionate about finding a cure for cancer. They are an example for all that you can make a difference at any age," said Dr. Jerris Hedges, dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine and interim director of the Cancer Center.
All of the girls acknowledged the encouragement and support of their families in raising the money for the donation.

The UH Cancer Center has many dedicated funds for cancer-related research projects such as those focusing on liver, breast, pancreatic and ovarian cancer. If you have a specific area of interest you would like to support, please call or email Elaine Evans eelaine.evans@UHFoundation.org or (808) 692-0991. You can also make a gift online at www.uhfoundation.org/givetocancercenter

To see photos from the event: https://www.flickr.com/photos/uhcancercenter/albums/72157669209338345

**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. An organized research unit within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the center is dedicated to eliminating cancer through research, education, and improved patient care.