GOVERNOR IGE SHOWS UH CANCER CENTER SUPPORT

Governor David Ige firmly showed his support for the importance of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center's National Cancer Institute designation while grading this legislative session.

"I am committed to ensuring the [National] Cancer Institute designation. It's important to our community. Our community deserves the best cancer care we can provide," said Ige.

In a Star Advertiser poll on Monday, May 2, 53 percent of the voters with 8 percent undecided believed the Cancer Center needed the $4 million budget support from the Legislature.

"We greatly appreciate Governor Ige's vocal support recently and during this legislative session. We will continue to advocate for the Cancer Center into the 2017 legislative session. We have made significant progress and are committed to fight for the improvement of health of those in Hawai'i and the Pacific region through research and education," said Dr. Jerris Hedges, dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine and interim director of the UH Cancer Center.

More than 6,000 people are diagnosed with cancer each year in Hawai'i, and another 2,000 will die from the disease, making it the second leading cause of death in the state.

The UH Cancer Center along with only 68 other NCI-designated cancer centers compete successfully every year for 75 to 85% of the NCI's $4.8 billion extramural funds. Cancer Center affiliated investigators secure an average of $20 million of national grants annually to support cancer research in Hawai'i.

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.