



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
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By
Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA
Director, University of Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1145 – RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center supports this bill and is recommending the following amendment.

Page 3, Line 7 (Item 13) to read:

A person or agency who needs vital statistics records for a public health purpose, including entities or programs with a federal or state mandate, and other entities as determined by the director of health;

The Hawai'i Tumor Registry (HTR) acts as the public health authority for cancer surveillance in the State of Hawai'i and this includes surveillance of both cancer incidence and mortality data. This public health authority is supported by current state and federal statutes:

- 1) CFR 164 501: The HTR acts as a public health authority of the DOH (per CFR 164 501) in order to fulfill the statutory requirement for cancer surveillance. Acting as a public health authority, the HTR is authorized by law to collect or receive information for the purposes of preventing or controlling disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions (per CFR 164 512). Under this authority, central cancer registries throughout U.S. jurisdictions receive death certificate information from their state health departments.
- 2) HRS 321-43 requires that the DOH “engage in the collection and analysis of statistical information on the morbidity and mortality of cancer in the State. The morbidity data may be collected in cooperation with the University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Medical Association, and the Hawai'i Cancer Society. All data collected by a cooperating agency may be shared with the department of health. The mortality data as collected from death certificates shall be analyzed by the staff of the department in order to determine the significance of cancer in the State...”

The HTR performs this latter task as a public health authority of the DOH. The DOH cannot perform this function without the HTR's involvement. Additionally, the HTR, as a component of the federal Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program through the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center since 1973, leverages nearly \$1 million in federal funds annually to support this effort that would otherwise need to be borne by the DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this proposed legislation and to offer consideration for the amendment as outlined above.