

# Ho‘Ola

WORKING TO FIND THE CURE

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## President’s Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Through my family’s cancer journey with our daughter Alana, I’ve come to believe more than ever in the importance of cancer research. It is through the wonderful and almost incredible advances in research that cancers once thought incurable are now having positive outcomes.

In order to sustain this high level of research into the future, we need our young people to pursue careers in medicine and science and, in particular, cancer research. One of the objectives of the University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center is to conduct educational outreach in our community. As the Friends of the UH Cancer Center, we support this effort wholeheartedly.

Each summer, 15 to 20 local high school and undergraduate students work as interns at the UH Cancer Center, and are mentored and trained by cancer researchers on projects of their own. This invaluable research experience exposes the students to possible careers in the life sciences. A 2017 follow-up of 72 previous interns showed that:

- 73% obtained an undergraduate degree in a science field;
- 34% are enrolled in an undergraduate science program;
- 23% are enrolled in a medical school;
- 5% completed a medical degree; and
- 5% completed graduate school in a research-oriented field.

Last summer, the Friends of the UH Cancer Center supported five out of the 20 interns. Since federal funding is no longer available, this year we would like to increase our support to 15 interns. Your assistance is needed to help us continue our support of this community program.



Adelia Dung and Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA

Great things are happening at the UH Cancer Center. Dr. Randall Holcombe, director of the UH Cancer Center, is providing outstanding leadership. The UH Cancer Center started the new year with a balanced budget, several new exciting hires, and enthusiasm and vigor. The process for the renewal of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation is in progress, and a final determination will be made this summer.

The Friends of the UH Cancer Center thank you for assisting us in our support of our critical community resource, the UH Cancer Center.

Mahalo,

Adelia Dung

President

Friends of the UH Cancer Center

## Fundraiser for summer internship program

EVENT INFO

THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH  
AT FERGUSON'S PUB

The Friends are having a fundraiser event on **Thursday, April 26th at Ferguson's Pub**. Director, Dr. Randall Holcombe, will share his vision for the Center and for cancer research in Hawai'i along with recently recruited breast cancer researcher and clinician, Dr. Jami Fukui, and a summer intern.

The Friends of the UH Cancer Center is a nonprofit organization with its own IRC 501(c)(3) status. All funds raised are used to benefit the UH Cancer Center and remain here in Hawai'i. With only one part-time administrative assistant, the Friends has very little overhead enabling almost everything that is raised to be used for programs such as the HERO Appreciation Event, Quest for a Cure, the summer internship program and the Innovations/Ho'Ola publication.

If you are interested in supporting the Friends' fundraiser at Ferguson's, **please contact event co-chairs Sheri-Ann Higa at [shhiga@fhh.com](mailto:shhiga@fhh.com) or Diane Ono at 808-585-1087.**



Summer intern, Dylan Combs, presents his research project to the Friends.

## Welcome new board members



**Sheri-Ann Higa** is a vice president and branch manager of First Hawaiian Bank's Mānoa branch. Higa has a personal, vested interest in cancer research as she was diagnosed with the disease in 2013. Having benefited from the expertise of doctors affiliated with the UH Cancer Center, she strongly believes in the importance of continuing to maintain a top-notch research and patient care facility in Hawai'i.



**Monica McLaren**, a retired Punahou School educator, is now director of Instructional Design at the Sullivan Family of Companies. She views cancer as an omnipresent force in our lives, touching so many we know and love. McLaren said, "I am inspired by the mission of the UH Cancer Center in terms of the research benefits it offers our unique Hawai'i and related ethnic populations, as well as opportunities it offers individual cancer patients, such as clinical trials."



**Dr. Sue Sylvester Palumbo** is a veterinarian and owner of the Cat Clinic, and has a close association with medicine and cancer. Her late husband, Dr. Nick Palumbo, was a faculty member of the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine. Palumbo was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and she remarked that "it has given me new insights in cancer treatment, research and how essential this area of study is in our community."