

# Ho‘Ola

WORKING TO FIND THE CURE

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## President's Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We recently hosted a very successful fundraiser that enabled the Friends to double its support of the summer internship program! The interns will have an engaging and unique learning opportunity at the UH Cancer Center.

Besides supporting the summer internship program, the Friends are engaged in several other initiatives. We see ourselves as advocates and ambassadors in the community for the Cancer Center. To have a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Cancer Center in our community is vital for our state, and we will continue to bring public awareness to the Cancer Center.

For several years now, we have supported Tickets for a Cure, an ongoing program that

assists the Clinical Trials Office by providing neighbor island patients with airfare to attend appointments that must take place in Honolulu or with cab fare for O‘ahu residents. Transportation to and from medical appointments should not be an impediment to participating in a clinical trial.

We’ve also supported the UH Cancer Center’s clinical trials patient appreciation event since its inception three years ago. The event is known by the acronym HERO, “Helping to Enhance Research in Oncology.” The unsung heroes are the patients themselves who make clinical trials possible. Finding better treatments for various cancers with less toxicity and more efficacy in an evidence-based way can only be accomplished through clinical trials. We support the Cancer Center in its efforts to applaud the clinical trial participants and encourage other patients to participate in clinical trials as well.

We will continue to advocate and support the UH Cancer Center because we know how special it is to have an NCI-designated center for the people of Hawai‘i. Congratulations to Director Dr. Randall Holcombe and his faculty for the renewal of the NCI designation for the UH Cancer Center!

Mahalo,

*Adelia C. Dung*

Adelia Dung  
President  
Friends of the UH Cancer Center



Adelia Dung

## Fundraiser Supports 10 Summer Interns

The Friends of UH Cancer Center hosted a wonderful evening with good friends and fellowship in the beautiful atrium area of the historic Dillingham Transportation Building on April 26, 2018. Over 120 attendees enjoyed delicious food provided by Don and Marion Murphy of Ferguson's Pub. Other generous donors provided wine, decorations, exciting raffle prizes and an exclusive Lanai stay. Cancer Center Director Dr. Randall Holcombe, breast cancer researcher Dr. Jami Fukui and 2017 summer intern Lauren Muraoka each spoke about cancer research and their hopes for UH Cancer Center's future.

The event raised more than \$46,000, which supported 10 UH Cancer Center interns this summer (out of a cohort of 25). Interns are chosen through a highly competitive process from public and private schools across Hawai'i and the nation. This community engagement is very important to the UH Cancer Center, as these students are exposed to new research advances and cutting edge biomedical research and will hopefully become a part of Hawai'i's science and technology workforce.

The Friends are very grateful to everyone who supported this event and the UH Cancer Center's summer internship program through their attendance, donations, and efforts!



Top photo: 2018 summer interns supported by the Friends.  
Middle photo: Friends board members flanked by summer interns.  
Bottom Left: Intern Chloe Asato presents on her research.  
Bottom Right: President Adelia Chung engages a table of interns.

## Welcome New Board Member

**Mitch Taira** is a senior manager in the Assurance Services practice of Ernst & Young LLP. With more than nine years of financial audit experience, he has served clients in the healthcare, non-profit and real estate industries. Mitch is excited to get involved, to make a difference, and to give back to the Hawai'i community, and he sees being a member of the Friends of the UH Cancer Center board as a good opportunity to do just that. He knows that cancer affects us all in one way or another, and is looking forward to spreading the word about the Cancer Center's efforts for the benefit of all Hawai'i residents.



Mitch Taira