

Ho'ōla

WORKING TO FIND THE CURE

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If you'd like to learn more about the Friends and support us with a donation, please visit <https://friendsofuhcc.org>

President's Message

Aloha, friends and supporters of the UH Cancer Center!

2022 is just flying by. At the start of the year, I chose one word to represent 2022, "**BUILD.**" I hope that together we can build on the ways we support the Center.

Before I continue, I want to say a big thank you to Monica McLaren, outgoing Friends Board President, for her great leadership, especially during an unusual and uncertain time.

Also, mahalo to Dr. Joe Ramos for his enthusiastic leadership as Interim Director. We wish him well in his new position at the Louisiana Cancer Research Center.

As we await a new Center Director, the Friends continue to build on and support key programs with your help:

- **Students** – Seed money for a successful summer student intern program resulted in a grant. We now fund a new program, the three-year graduate student fellowship.

- **Tickets for the Cure** – Program that covers the cost of flights and alleviates the financial burden for clinical trial patients on the neighbor islands.
- **Early Phase Clinical Research Center** – Support for the Center and sponsorship of a meditation room.
- **Community awareness** – Ideas and plans to improve the awareness of the Center and involve the community.
- **Legislation** – Support for legislation that promotes cancer research in Hawai'i. We raise our voices about legislation that negatively impacts the Center or the community.

Please join our efforts to build a strong UH Cancer Center for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,



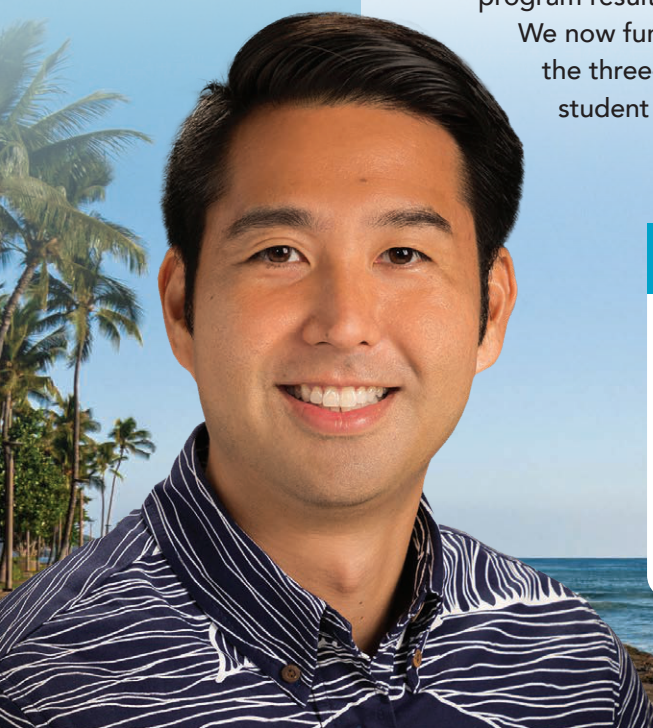
CHRISTOPHER M. YASUMA

President, Friends of the UH Cancer Center

CHRISTOPHER M. YASUMA PROFILE

Like many of us, cancer has impacted Christopher Yasuma's immediate family, so he is dedicated to fighting the disease. Yasuma is the new President of the Friends of the UH Cancer Center and has been a board member since 2017. He is also on the executive board of the Hawai'i Children's Cancer Foundation.

Yasuma is Vice President of the Corporate Banking Division at First Hawaiian Bank. In his free time, he enjoys surfing, playing music, traveling to Japan, and spending time with his family. He and his wife Marisa, have one daughter.



Join a Study

There are many ways to support the UH Cancer Center in addition to making a donation. One way is to participate in a research study. The Center has various research studies that healthy individuals can participate in, including studies on breast cancer, colon cancer, exercise, and meditation.

For over 25 years, Earl Stoner, Director of S&F Land Co. and a former Friends Board President, has participated in the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) Study. The MEC study, which began in 1993, follows a group of 215,000 individuals over time to observe how members who develop cancer and other conditions differ in risk factors.

Early in the program, Stoner provided small blood and urine samples. Every five years, he answers a lengthy questionnaire about his health. Earl said he participates in the study because of its "collaborative nature, the sheer numbers of participants, and impact on cancer research."

THE MEC DATA HAS
RESULTED IN MORE THAN
**900 PUBLISHED
SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES**
ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS
INCLUDING SMOKING, DIET,
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

Monica McLaren, Director of Instructional Design at the Sullivan Family of Companies and a former Friends Board President, also volunteered for a Center study—Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial Study (TMIST).

TMIST is a clinical trial that will help the Center develop strategies to tailor breast cancer screenings to the risks of individual women. To participate, women must be 45-74 years of age and scheduled for a screening mammogram.

McLaren said, "As a mother with a daughter and numerous nieces, I am excited to be able to do something that might make a difference in their and many other lives."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AND PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY, GO TO



[uhcancercenter.org/community-outreach/
participate-in-a-research-study](https://uhcancercenter.org/community-outreach/participate-in-a-research-study)

Friends' Graduate Student Fellow Update

Zitong Gao, MMed, the Friends of the UH Cancer Center scholar, explained her impressive work on tRNA-derived fragments in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) to the Friends board during the April board meeting.

Also in April, Gao received a UH Cancer Center Travel award to present her work on six potential biomarkers for NSCLC diagnosis and prognosis at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, under the mentorship of Youping Deng, PhD. "It was a valuable experience for me to introduce my research idea to others, as well as obtaining opportunities for networking," said Gao.



Zitong Gao, MMed