



## HAWAII SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

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February 3, 2006

Members of the 2006 Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB 1996/SB 2694 Relating to Excise Tax (County Surcharge) on  
Healthcare

Dear Legislators:

The Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology (HSCO) strongly supports the passage of legislation to exempt physician services, hospital charges, nursing services, and rehabilitation services from the county surcharge on state tax.

HSCO is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance oncology care in the State of Hawaii and represents physicians who specialize in medical, pediatric, radiation and surgical oncology. We are one of only a few State oncology societies with multidisciplinary involvement and are the recognized State affiliate society of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the Association of Community Cancer Centers and the Council of Associated Regional Radiation Oncology Societies.

Our members deal with cancer diagnosis and treatment as a daily part of our lives. We therefore feel uniquely qualified to bring your attention to the difficulties and frustrations we feel for and share with these patients in achieving a good result when diagnosis, evaluation and treatment are delayed by financial considerations and patients' concern over the financial burdens their care would place on their families. This is especially true for our neighbor island patients who must add travel and hotel costs to their treatment.

Putting more financial pressure on patients increases the likelihood that treatment will be delayed, and left untreated, cancer would certainly advance. Delaying treatment due to financial circumstances not only compromises the health of the patient, it ultimately increases the burden on the healthcare system as a whole in Hawaii. The rise in uninsured patients admitted to the hospital with advanced or terminal cancer would also come at a time of looming Medicaid budget deficits.

We need your help. HSCO wholeheartedly supports the passage of HB1996 and SB2694 and urges you to sign on as co-sponsors if you have not already done so. Thank you very much for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Miller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles Miller, MD  
President  
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology