

# HAWAII RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT ON RESEARCH

*A Public Opinion Study for Research!America*

*January 2006*

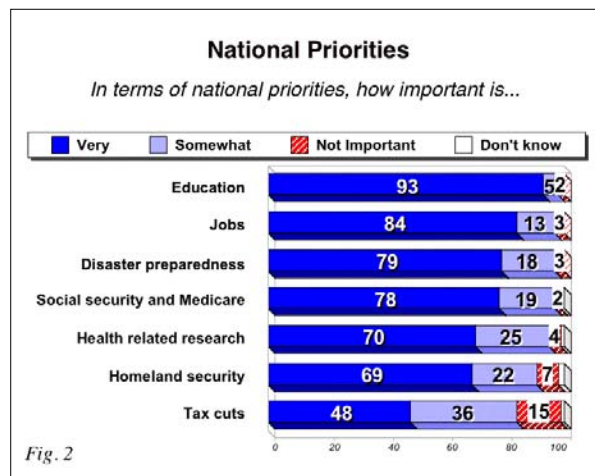
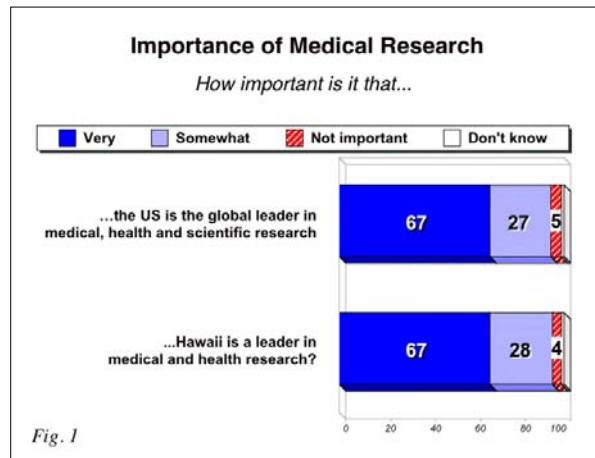
*Research!America has been gauging public opinion on people's attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research since 1992. Results of the recent poll in Hawaii show a high level of support and value for research conducted in both the public and private sector. These poll responses indicate there is an overwhelming belief in Hawaii that research is important and is a high priority for its citizens, particularly as it impacts the state's health, education and economy.*

## LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO HAWAII RESIDENTS

Research is clearly important to Hawaii residents (see figure 1). In fact, 94% of Hawaii residents say it is important that the United States is the global leader in medical, health, and scientific research, with 67% saying this is *very* important.

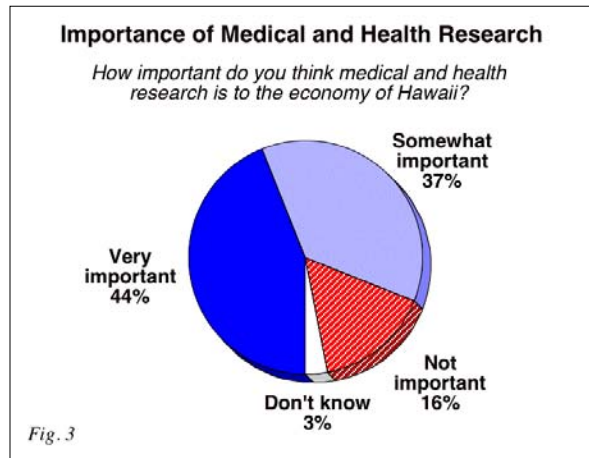
Similarly, 95% of residents say it is important for Hawaii to be a leader in medical and health research, and 67% say it is *very* important (see figure 1). However, only 38% say Hawaii is currently very much a leader. Forty-one percent say the state is somewhat a leader, and 15% believe Hawaii is not a leader.

Ninety-five percent of Hawaii residents also feel that health related research is an important national priority (see figure 2). Education tops the list at 98%, followed by jobs, disaster preparedness, and social security and Medicare, each at 97%. Homeland security (91%) and tax cuts (84%) rank slightly lower than health related research.



**MEDICAL RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO HAWAII’S ECONOMY**

Eighty-one percent of Hawaii residents feel that medical and health research is important to the state’s economy. Forty-four percent feel spending on medical and health research is *very* important to Hawaii’s economy, and another 37% feel it is somewhat important (see figure 3).

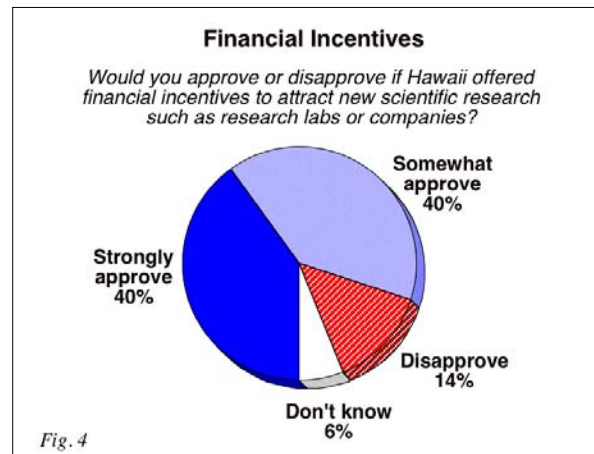


Similarly, thinking in terms of job creation and incomes, 94% of Hawaii residents feel that investing in scientific research is important to the state’s economy. Fifty-five percent feel spending on science research is *very* important, and another 39% feel it is somewhat important.

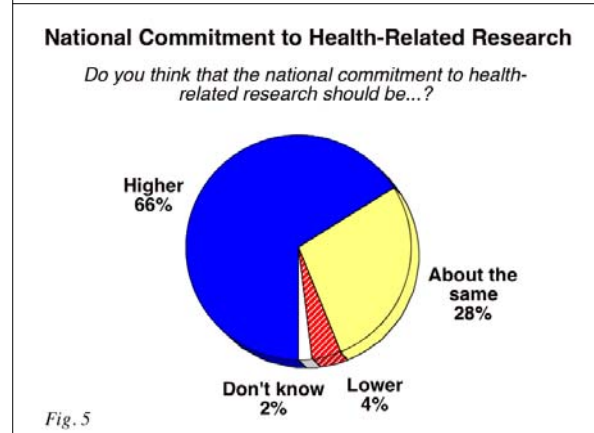
Ninety-seven percent feel it is important for the U.S. to educate and train individuals qualified to conduct medical and health research, and 72% feel this is *very* important. Ninety-six percent feel it is important for Hawaii to create more careers in science and research for its young people, and 85% feel it would be valuable for the state to foster the development of a biotechnology industry in Hawaii.

**RESIDENTS FAVOR ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH**

Eighty-six percent agree that even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic research which advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.



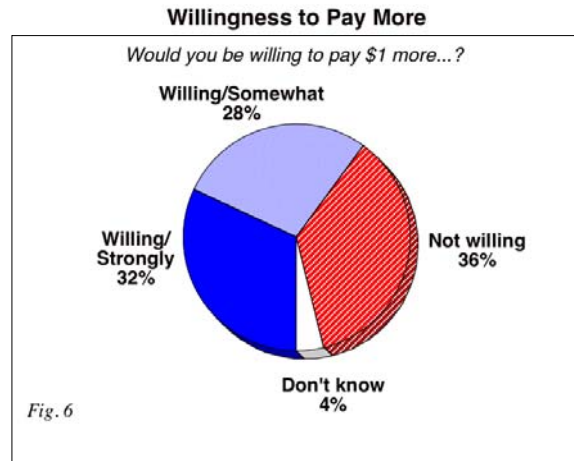
Hawaii residents strongly support the state offering financial incentives to attract new scientific research. In fact, 40% *strongly* approve of such incentives and an additional 40% *somewhat* approve (see figure 4). Seventy-nine percent agree that Congress should support tax and regulatory policies that encourage private industries to conduct more medical research.



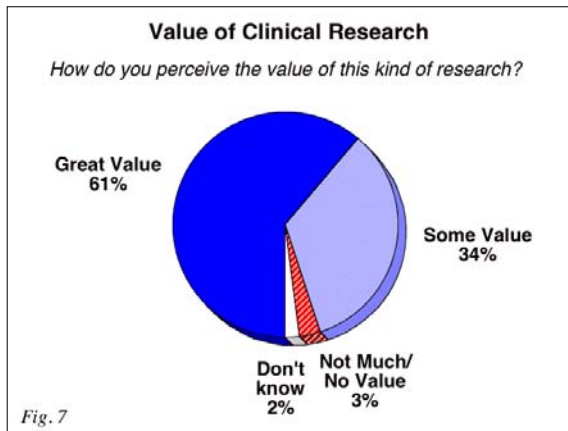
Furthermore, two-thirds feel the national commitment to health-related research should be higher (see figure 5). A plurality

of 50% of Hawaii residents believe we should be spending more than the current six cents per U.S. health dollar on medical and health research. Twenty-one percent say this is the right amount and only 7% say we should be spending less.

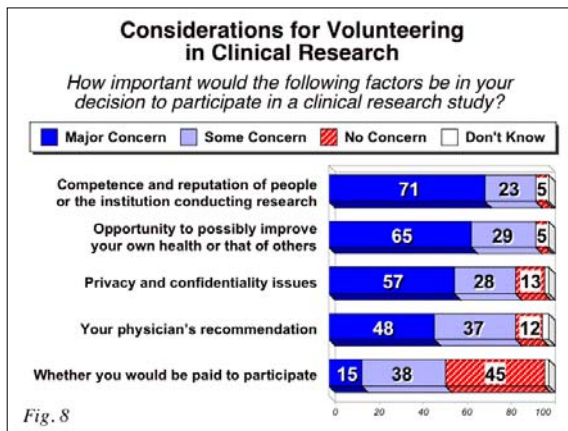
Not only do residents approve of more government spending on research, they are also willing to pay more for it. Sixty percent would be willing to pay \$1 more per week in taxes if the money would be spent on additional medical research (see figure 6).



### HAWAII RESIDENTS PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON CLINICAL RESEARCH



Nearly all Hawaii residents believe clinical research to be valuable. In fact, 61% say it is a *great* value and an additional 34% say it is of *some* value (see figure 7). A majority of Hawaii residents (60%) say they are likely to participate as a volunteer in a clinical research study, and 53% would be willing to be genetically tested to help doctors diagnose and prevent disease. Twenty-seven percent say they already have participated in a clinical study, despite the fact that only 6% report a doctor suggesting they participate. Seventy percent have never talked with their doctor about medical research at all.



The most important factor in deciding to participate in such a study is the competence and reputation of the people or the institution conducting the research (see figure 8). In fact, 71% feel this would be a primary reason in their decision to participate. Other important factors include: the opportunity to possibly improve their own health or that of others,

privacy and confidentiality issues, and recommendation from a personal physician. Hawaii residents do not consider payment for participation to be a major factor.

Hawaii residents believe it is important to study why some health problems disproportionately affect low income and minority citizens. Ninety-two percent say it is

important to conduct research to end these differences. Specifically, 68% feel this is *very* important and 24% feel it is *somewhat* important.

Ninety-four percent of residents also believe that research conducted by nurses on issues such as delivery of health care and testing of drug safety is valuable. A majority of 55% believe this is of great value, while another 39% feel it is of some value.

**Institutions Conducting Research**

*Do you know of any institutions in Hawaii where medical and health research is conducted?*

	First Mentions	Total Mentions
University of Hawaii/ John A. Burns School of Medicine	13	17
Radiant Research	4	5
University of Hawaii-Hilo	4	5
Cancer Research Center of Hawaii	3	5
The Queen's Medical Center	2	5
Kaiser Permanente	2	2
Kuakini Medical Center	1	2
Straub Clinic and Hospital	1	2
American Cancer Society	1	1
University of Hawaii (Other)	1	1
Tripler Army Medical Center	1	1
Kapiolani Medical Center	*	1
Other	5	9
Don't know	62	85

*Fig. 9*

### HAWAII RESIDENTS UNFAMILIAR WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

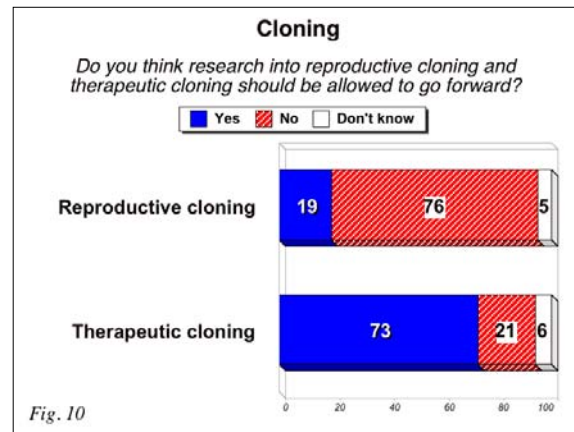
Despite their willingness to support medical and health research efforts, 62% of Hawaii residents are unable to name any organization in Hawaii where medical research is conducted (see figure 9). The University of Hawaii/John A. Burns School of Medicine was mentioned by 13%. Radiant Research and the University of Hawaii-Hilo were each mentioned by 4%, followed by the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii at 3%. All other organizations named were cited by 2% or fewer.

### CURRENT ISSUES IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Asked what concerns residents have about medical research, a plurality of 27% cite no concerns. A combined 12% mention finding cures for various diseases (5% diseases in general, 3% cancer, 2% diabetes, 1% heart disease and stroke, and AIDS and childhood disorders at less than one half percent each). Seven percent are concerned about wasting money, while 5% mention that research is needed, and another 5% have concerns about research methods. All other concerns were cited by fewer than five percent.

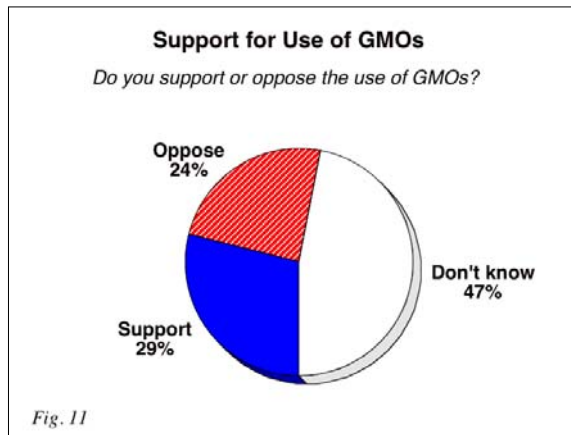
Two percent of Hawaii residents mentioned that they are concerned about animal testing in medical research. Seventy-eight percent believe the use of animals in medical research is necessary for progress in medicine.

Cloning was mentioned as a concern by 1%. When given more information about types of cloning, residents express support for research into therapeutic cloning (used to help in the search for possible cures and treatments for diseases and disabilities). Seventy-three percent agree that research into therapeutic cloning should go forward, while 21% feel it should not be allowed. Three-quarters of Hawaii residents say research into reproductive



cloning should not be allowed to go forward, with 61% feeling *strongly* that it should not be allowed (see figure 10).

Fewer than one half of one percent mentioned GMOs as a concern, although 41% report hearing about the issue. Based on what they know or have heard, a plurality of 47% have not formed an opinion on the issue, while those who have are split with 29% in support of the use of GMOs and 24% against them (see figure 11). After being told about some of the positive uses of GMOs in crop protection and pharmaceuticals, 57% support the use of GMOs and 26% oppose them.



## METHODOLOGY

*Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey among 800 adults in Hawaii. The entire sample was proportionate to the state's demographics, including geography, gender, voter registration and ethnicity. The survey, fielded November 5-10, 2005, has a theoretical sampling error of +/-3.5%. Please note that much of the question text in this report has been paraphrased.*

*This poll was commissioned by Research!America, a not-for-profit, membership-supported national alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to enhancing public education and advocacy for medical, health, and scientific research. For more information about the Hawaii poll, including a list of sponsoring organizations, or for other questions about public attitudes towards scientific research, contact Research!America at: 1101 King Street, Suite 520, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 · Telephone: 703/739-2577 · Fax: 703/739-2372 · e-mail: [info@researchamerica.org](mailto:info@researchamerica.org) · [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org).*

