

FEB 16 2007

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
COLLABORATE WITH THE ORGAN DONOR CENTER OF HAWAII TO  
INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF ORGAN DONATION IN THE  
STATE OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, medical technology has advanced to the point where  
lives can be extended beyond what society had envisioned, even  
as recently as twenty years ago; and

WHEREAS, individuals are given the opportunity to donate  
their healthy organs to persons suffering from liver disease,  
kidney failure, lung injuries, and corneas for eyes; and

WHEREAS, tissues, bone, and other anatomical parts can also  
be used by those with injuries that require repair; and

WHEREAS, through the miracle of transplantation, many of  
our friends, neighbors, and family are now living healthy,  
productive lives; and

WHEREAS, there are over 94,000 individuals on our nation's  
organ transplant waitlist, and unfortunately, less than half of  
potential donors will say "yes" to helping others through organ  
or tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, 6,342 patients were removed from the national  
waitlist for organ donation upon reaching their death in 2005;  
and

WHEREAS, in Hawaii, 375 patients are currently waiting for  
life-saving organ transplants according to data provided by the  
Organ Procurement and Transplant Network; and



1 WHEREAS, the need for donated organs and tissues continues  
2 as there are thousands of people who would benefit if more  
3 individuals were to become organ and tissue donors; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, to increase the number of available donors,  
6 greater efforts are needed to inform people of the "gift" of  
7 organ and tissue donation and provide them with the opportunity  
8 of to save; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has provided a clear and simple method to  
11 address this concern by allowing individuals to indicate on  
12 their driver's license their willingness to be an organ donor;  
13 and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii is the only  
16 federally-designated, private, nonprofit, charitable  
17 organization authorized to recover organs and tissue for  
18 transplant in the State of Hawaii; thus, it should be given  
19 greater assistance from public agencies in furthering this  
20 wonderful initiative on multiple levels; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, organ-donation education programs in high schools  
23 have been proven effective in other states in providing clear  
24 information to students and dispelling false notions they may  
25 have gained based on inaccuracies communicated through the  
26 media; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the donation of an organ or tissue should not be  
29 cost-prohibitive for those who choose to help; however,  
30 unfortunately many individuals and families undergo financial  
31 and emotional stress in the process of donating an organ or  
32 tissue; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, in 2004, the state of Wisconsin adopted what is  
35 widely known as "Cody's Law," which was created to ease the  
36 financial burden organ or tissue donors bear by providing a tax  
37 credit for expenses brought about through the organ or tissue  
38 donation process; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, taxable income costs of up to \$10,000 incurred by  
41 individuals and families from donating all or part of a liver,  
42 pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow, and expenses  
43 that include travel, lodging, and lost wages, are eligible for  
44 this credit; and



1 WHEREAS, since its inception, Cody's Law has been adopted  
2 in ten other states and is being considered in more than two  
3 dozen others; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature, Department of Education, and  
6 Department of Health are ideally positioned to support the  
7 efforts of those who seek to build an educated and healthy  
8 Hawaii; now, therefore,  
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
13 Education and Department of Health collaborate with the Organ  
14 Donor Center of Hawaii to increase awareness of the benefits of  
15 organ and tissue donation in the State of Hawaii; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,  
18 Department of Health, and the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii  
19 develop programs that:  
20

- 21 (1) Provide clear and factual information to students  
22 to help them make an informed decision about  
23 organ and tissue donation;  
24
- 25 (2) Provide a means for encouraging students to  
26 communicate their wishes about organ and tissue  
27 donation to their families; and  
28
- 29 (3) Ensure that students who will soon gain their  
30 driver's licenses will be presented with the  
31 opportunity to become organ donors;  
32

33 and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports  
36 living-donor programs such as Cody's Law, which provides  
37 assistance when individuals are in the process of personally  
38 donating organs or tissue to save the lives of the ill; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
3 Director of Health, the Superintendent of Education, the  
4 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Executive  
5 Director of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii.  
6  
7

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jim*

