
HOUSE 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 AND TISSUE
DONATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, medical technology has advanced to the point where
2 lives can be extended beyond what society had envisioned, even
3 as recently as twenty years ago; and
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5 WHEREAS, individuals are given the opportunity to donate
6 their healthy organs to persons suffering from liver disease,
7 kidney failure, and lung injuries, and corneas for eyes; and
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9 WHEREAS, tissues, bone, and other anatomical parts can also
10 be used by those with injuries that require repair; and
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12 WHEREAS, through the miracle of transplantation, many of
13 our friends, neighbors, and family members are now living
14 healthy, productive lives; and
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16 WHEREAS, there are over 97,000 individuals on our nation's
17 organ transplant waitlist, but unfortunately, less than half of
18 potential donors will say "yes" to helping others through organ
19 or tissue donation; and
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21 WHEREAS, 6,526 patients were removed from the national
22 waitlist for organ donation upon their deaths in 2006; and
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24 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, as of October 19, 2007, 381 patients
25 are currently waiting for life-saving organ transplants
26 according to data provided by the Organ Procurement and
27 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
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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 to provide them with the
8 opportunity to donate; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has contributed to these efforts by
11 allowing individuals to indicate on their driver's licenses
12 their willingness to be an organ donor; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii is the only
15 federally-designated, private, nonprofit, charitable
16 organization authorized to recover organs and tissue for
17 transplant in the State of Hawaii and thus should be offered
18 further assistance from public agencies to advance their good
19 work on multiple levels; and
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21 WHEREAS, in many states, organ-donation education programs
22 in high schools have proven effective because they provide clear
23 information to students and dispel false notions they may have
24 based on inaccuracies communicated through the media; and
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26 WHEREAS, the donation of an organ or tissue should not be
27 cost-prohibitive for those who choose to help, but many
28 individuals and families undergo financial and emotional stress
29 in the donation process; and
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31 WHEREAS, to ease such undue financial burden, the state of
32 Wisconsin adopted what is widely known as "Cody's Law" in 2004,
33 which provides a tax deduction for expenses incurred in the
34 organ or tissue donation process; and
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36 WHEREAS, eligible expenses of up to \$10,000 incurred by
37 individuals and families from donating all or part of a liver,
38 pancreas, kidney, intestine, or lung, or bone marrow, including
39 lost wages and travel and lodging expenses, are eligible for the
40 tax deduction; 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

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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 a healthy and educated
8 Hawaii; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2008, the Senate 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

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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 informed decisions about organ
23 and tissue donation;
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25 (2) Provide a means for students to communicate to
26 their families their wishes to make organ or
27 tissue donations; and
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29 (3) Ensure that students of driving age are presented
30 with the opportunity to become organ or tissue
31 donors;

32 and

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34
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports
36 living-donor programs such as the program provided in Cody's
37 Law; and



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

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