
HOUSE 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
4

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
8

9 WHEREAS, tissues, bone, and other anatomical parts can also
10 be used by those with injuries that require repair; and
11

12 WHEREAS, through the miracle of transplantation, many of
13 our friends, neighbors, and family members are now living
14 healthy, productive lives; and
15

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
20

21 WHEREAS, 6,526 patients were removed from the national
22 waitlist for organ donation upon their deaths in 2006; and
23

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
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 to provide them with the
8 opportunity to donate; and
9

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
13

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
20

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
25

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
30

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
35

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

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 a healthy and educated
8 Hawaii; now, therefore,

9
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, that the Department of Education and Department
13 of Health collaborate with the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to
14 increase awareness of the benefits of organ and tissue donation
15 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 informed decisions about organ
23 and tissue donation;
24
25 (2) Provide a means for students to communicate to
26 their families their wishes to make organ or
27 tissue donations; and
28
29 (3) Ensure that students of driving age are presented
30 with the opportunity to become organ or tissue
31 donors;

32
33 and

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



H.R. NO. 78

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
3 Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of
4 Education, and executive director of the Organ Donor Center of
5 Hawaii.
6
7
8

OFFERED BY:

John M. Burns
Tom Blaine
Karen Quana
Michael J. Mizoguchi
Ray P. Hanover

FEB 21 2008

