

February 26, 2008

**Before  
Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Finance**

Public Hearing - 11:00AM Tuesday, February 26, 2008 - Conference Room 308

**RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 2137 - Relating to Health**  
Provides a tax credit for expenses related to an organ donation

**The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair; Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair  
and members of the committee:**

My name is Tony L. Sagayadoro, Program Coordinator of the Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii, founding member of the Hawaii Coalition on Donation, and a 2000 Kidney Transplant Recipient and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of the intention of HB 2137 which provide and allow a one time tax credit for expenses related to organ donation..

We fully support the passage of the intention of HB 2137 for the following reasons:

- recognize the financial burden, and offers an amount of relief to an individuals who gives so much of themselves by giving the *Gift of Life*
- remove one barrier for a potential living donor to consider
- encourage more people to serve as living donors
- helps increase the supply of the critically needed organs and bone marrow
- saves the lives of critically ill patients who needs organ transplant
- Other states have already passed similar legislation to address the critical shortage of organs for transplantation: Arkansas, signed into law, March, 2005; Georgia, signed into law, April, 2004; Idaho, signed into law, July, 2006; Iowa, signed into law, May, 2005; Minnesota, signed into law, July, 2005; New Mexico, signed into law, April 2005; North Dakota, signed into law, March, 2005; Utah, signed into law, March, 2005; other states like Oklahoma, Wisconsin; and other states who have pending legislation.

**We urge that you give HB 2137 your favorable consideration.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony L. Sagayadoro