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January 21, 2008

**Before  
Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Health**

Public Hearing - 2:45AM Monday, March 10, 2008 - Conference Room 016

**RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 2137 HD2 - Relating to Health**  
Provides a tax credit for expenses related to an organ donation

**The Honorable David Ige, Chair; Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair  
and members of the committee:**

My name is Tony L. Sagayadoro, Program Coordinator of the Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) and member of the Hawaii Coalition on Donation, 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 HD2 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 HD2 your favorable consideration.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony L. Sagayadoro