



KŌKUA MAU

"Continuous Care"

Hawai'i Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

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To: Chair Brian T. Taniguchi
Vice-Chair Senator Clayton Hee
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Rachael S. Wong, MPH
Executive Director

Date & Time of Hearing: 10:00 AM, Friday, February 22, 2008
State Capitol, Room 016

Testimony in support of SB2099
Relating to Anatomical Gifts

Kōkua Mau, our statewide hospice and palliative organization, supports SB2099. One of our core mission activities is to improve the quality of life for people living in Hawai'i by promoting excellence in advance care planning. The amendment to Section 327T proposed by the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii adequately addresses our previous concerns about how advance directives and end-of-life care decisions will be made regarding potential donors.

Kōkua Mau supports all efforts to improve the quality of care for individuals and their families at the end of life, and this includes the reduction of confusion and unnecessary grief at the bedside of a loved one. We appreciate working with the local organ and tissue donation community to provide quality end-of-life care for individuals (including donors) and families in Hawai'i through the improvement of policy and clinical practice.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

Friday, February 22, 2008
10:00 AM Room 016, State Capitol

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2099, SD1
By
Stephen A. Kula, Ph.D., NHA
Executive Director, Organ Donor Center of Hawaii**

My name is Steve Kula; I am the Executive Director of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii. I am here to give testimony in support of SB2099,SD1. This bill, if enacted, would make conforming changes to Chapter 327 Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (“UAGA”) law among the various states is no longer uniform and harmonious, and the diversity of law is an impediment to transplantation. Recent technological innovations have increased the types of organs that can be transplanted, the demand for organs, and the range of individuals who can donate or receive an organ, thereby increasing the numbers of organs available each year and the number of transplantations that occur each year. Nonetheless, the number of deaths for lack of available organs also has increased.

Transplantation occurs across state boundaries and requires speed and efficiency. Thus, uniformity of state law is highly desirable. Furthermore, the decision to be a donor is a highly personal decision of great generosity and deserves the highest respect from the law. Because current state anatomical gift laws are out of harmony with both federal procurement and allocation policies and do not fully respect the autonomy interests of donors, there is a need to harmonize state law with federal policy as well as to improve the manner in which anatomical gifts can be made and respected.

We know that these changes to the UAGA can not fully supply the need for organs, but any change that could increase the supply of organs and thus save lives is an improvement.

Thank you for your consideration.