



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SB2104, RELATING TO THE ORGAN DONOR REGISTRY

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 27, 2008, 10:30 AM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB 2104, to establish a
2 statewide organ donor registry provided it does not adversely affect the priorities of the Executive
3 Supplemental budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** No appropriation amount identified in the measure.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department recognizes the importance of increasing the number of
6 individuals registered as organ and tissue donors thereby increasing the number of actual donors and
7 reducing the number of individuals on the transplant list. Currently, the only entry to enrollment as an
8 organ donor in Hawaii is through the Department of Motor Vehicles driver's licensing program. This
9 method is only available to licensed drivers, and many registrants do not realize that they must re-
10 register each time they renew their driver's license. These and other barriers to organ donation
11 registration can be alleviated by establishing a statewide organ donor registry that enhances the current
12 method through the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Department of Health, on behalf of the Organ
13 Donor Registry Consortium which includes the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii, the City and County of
14 Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicles, Licensing and Permits and the Hawaii Lion's Eye Bank, will be
15 submitting an application to the Health Resources Administration (HRSA) to improve Hawaii's organ
16 donor registry system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



1149 Bethel Street, Suite 801 • Honolulu, HI 96813

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, February 27, 2008
10:30 AM Room 211, State Capitol

Comments in SUPPORT of SB2104

By

**Stephen A. Kula, Ph.D., NHA
Executive Director, Organ Donor Center of Hawaii**

My name is Dr. Steve Kula; I am the Executive Director of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii, (ODCH). I submit my comments in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2104**. We believe that this Bill would save lives and provide needed assistance to the citizens of our State who wish to be donors and help someone in need of an organ transplant. Currently in the State of Hawaii more people are added to the organ transplant waitlist than are able to be transplanted off of it. In the past few years we have been declining in the number of donors and thus the number of organs and transplantations. Consequently more patients are dying while on the waitlist or being removed because they are too sick to be transplanted.

We believe that our community should be a society where people see organ donation as a social responsibility. In such a society, donating organs would be accepted as a normal part of dying, and in cases where a person died without recording a specific choice about donating his or her organs, the surviving family members would be comfortable giving permission. To achieve this there must be some mechanism for everyone to access information and be given the opportunity to give an informed consent to donate their organs so that others might live.

Organ donor designation on Hawaii driver's licenses has shown to have significant impact in predisposing potential donor families to consent for donation, where 94% of families consented to donation when their loved one had indicated so on his or her Hawaii driver's license as compared to an overall consent rate of less than 50%. If this bill is enacted we would be able to offer everyone, not just those who are able to drive, the ability to choose to be or not to be an organ donor.

The appropriated amount does not need to be very much if anything at all. The Department of Health currently has a grant application into the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (HRSA) for the sum of \$150,000.00 but will not know the outcome of that application until sometime prior to the start date of August 1, 2008. ODCH is also working on private funding and in-kind services to help supplement funds for public education and development. Other affected agencies, i.e. National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, have also agreed to do their specific parts of the registry project with in-kind services as well.

Please allow us to establish a statewide organ donor registry by passing this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.



February 26, 2008

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

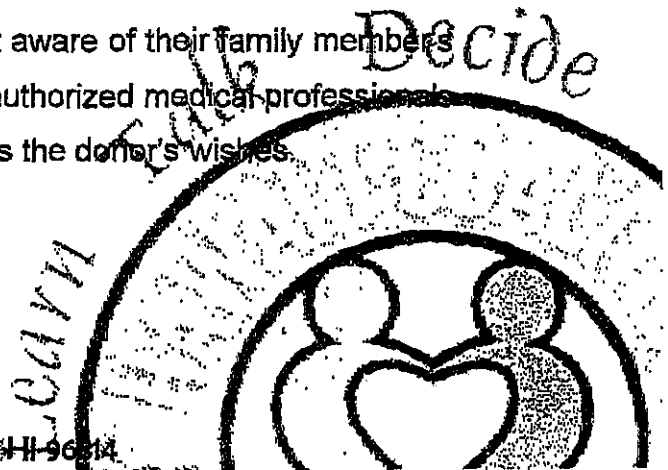
RE: S.B. No. 2104 – Relating to the Organ Donor Registry

Dear Chairman Baker and Vice-Chair Tsutsui and members of the State Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am Glen Hayashida, CEO, National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii (NKFH) and member of the Hawaii Coalition on Donation. It is my privilege to support SB 2104.

An established Donor Registry will give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to sign-up to be donors and have access to their information online as well as through the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii. The registry will give organ and tissue donors the ability to notify their family and friends of their wishes, making their decision to donate a matter of record.

Often family members of potential donors are not aware of their family members wish to donate. A registry will allow donors and authorized medical professionals to obtain a document of consent that clearly states the donor's wishes.





National research shows that although 98% of Americans support donation, only 30% knows the essential steps to take to become a donor. Others allow misconceptions, fears, and misinformation to prevent them from making a decision.

This Donor Registry will make it easier for the public to sign up to become an organ and tissue donor. It will also aid in making an organ donor's wishes more clearly known to their family members and loved ones.

Thank you for your consideration.

