

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Ross, Lawrence M [Lawrence.Ross@uth.tmc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:46 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** HB 28 & 29

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chair, House Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii

As President of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists, we applaud the State of hawaii efforts to curtail the sale and public exhibition of dead human bodies. Our organization's Anatomical Services Committee has been working hard in the very same direction.

I understand these comments may not reach you in the specified time required for presentation at the February 10, 2009 hearing, but perhaps they will be useful at the future 3rd hearing.

On behalf of the AACA, thank you for all your hard work on this most important issue.

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President
American Association of Clinical Anatomists <http://www.clinicalanatomy.org>

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu - Chairman
Representative Ken Ito – Vice Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(sent by e-mail)

February 10, 2009

Aloha,

Thank you for the introduction of HB 28 & 29 at the Legislative Session.

Unfortunately, I was not prepared to travel to give testimony on these bills.

My background and travel in Asia and esp. China and my work on International committees with the YMCA has given me a keen sense of the cultural and social attributes of the Chinese people.

I found it offense when the “Bodies” exhibit first opened in Honolulu and especially offended that folks did not take a stand against an exhibit that does nothing but treat humans as a product. Chinese have a strict belief that the desecration of the body may prevent ascension into the next life.

The fact that these products coming from China also have no “Tracking” or origin in most cases is cause for concern.

Respect for life and for the families of the dead are at a very low point and even lower if we allow things like this to be on exhibit.

Respect for life and the mourning of the dead is something we as Americans hold near and dear in our society.

I look at the situation in terms of having a display in China of bodies from America that have no tracking and using criminals from our prisons as display bodies; How would Americans react to that? It makes the point stronger if we look at it from this perspective.

I support both HB 28 and 29 as presented and urge the Judiciary Committee to pass both bills as presented.

Sincerely,

Glennon T. Gingo

Holualoa (Big Island), Hawaii

cc. State Representative Marcus Oshiro

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

John A. Burns School of Medicine
Department of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology

February 10, 2009

Rep. JR Karamatsu, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**RE: Support of HB 28 & 29 Hearings on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:00 PM,
Conference Room, 325.**

Dear Rep. Karamatsu:

I provide this letter in strong support of HB 28 and 29 aimed at limiting commercial exploitation of human body remains. I am Chairman of the Department of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology and I supervise the Willed Body Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). This Program is responsible for the procurement and use of human remains for the purpose of medical and allied medical education and research.

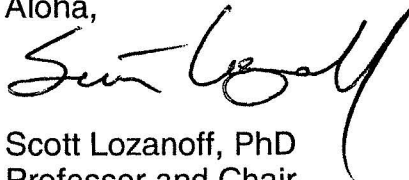
Anatomical dissection is indispensable for the proper understanding of the human body for the purpose of medical treatment. The cadaver enables the student to understand spatial relationships in three dimensions that otherwise are impossible to understand from two-dimensional depictions in book or computer programs. Fortunately, we have many altruistic community members who donate their bodies for this purpose giving a priceless gift of education to medical and allied medical students and ultimately to the long-term health care of our society.

Recently, business entities have begun exploiting human remains for commercial gains in Hawaii. Bodies the Exhibition displayed plastinated human remains derived from Chinese nationals who were almost certainly executed prisoners. Displayed bodies typically are positioned in awkward orientations and have anatomical structures disarticulated, lacking spatial relationships. Although these displays profess educational values, they teach us no more about anatomy than TV reality shows instructing the viewer about human psychology. Presentations are meant only to shock and extract money under the guise of education.

The use of human remains after death is interpreted differently by individuals based on their own spiritual or cultural perceptions. However, commercialization of postmortem remains reduces the human body to a commodity potentially avoiding donor rights on one hand, particularly in the case of an unclaimed body, and a procurer's ethical responsibilities to a family and society. A government must ensure

proper respect and disbursement of human remains, otherwise is it is a small step to objectifying and commodifying human body parts prior to death. House Bills 28 and 29 seek to address the issue of commercialized display and distribution of human body parts taking its place among other such bills passed in New York, Pennsylvania, and California. Ultimately, our state government is responsible for human health in our community and these Bills will go a long way to ensure ethical treatment of human remains thus promoting human health and individual respect within our community.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lozanoff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Scott Lozanoff, PhD
Professor and Chair