



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF BIRTHDAYS.™

February 27, 2012

House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 308
February, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

HB 1952, HD1 - Relating to Bone Marrow Transplants

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1952, which appropriates \$500,000, subject to equal matching private funds, for Hawaii Pacific Health to establish a bone marrow transplant center in Hawaii.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

After the closure of the both Hawaii Medical Center East and West, patients who required bone marrow transplants needed to seek treatment in other states. This scenario created a financial burden on patients who needed transportation and lodging in addition to preparing for a major medical procedure. Travelling to the mainland also made it difficult for a patient's support system, their family, to accompany them.

In an effort to ease the burden for cancer patients, the American Cancer Society recently worked to assist a patient who required a bone marrow transplant. Due to the nature of transplants, time is an essential factor to increase a positive outcome. While we were able to help secure transportation to the mainland, we recognized the importance of having this service close to home.

Recognizing the loss to our community, medical facilities and state leaders have worked tirelessly to promote new kidney and liver transplant centers in Hawaii. This measure would

assist to provide a new bone marrow transplant center, which requires separate equipment from kidney and liver transplant facilities.

The Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Hawaii Pacific Inc., adopted a resolution to support efforts to establish a new bone marrow transplant center in Hawaii (attached). We believe that keeping bone marrow transplants in the State will reduce the burden of receiving transplants out-of-state, which eases the burden on patients and their families.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory Chun". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cory Chun
Government Relations Director

:attachment



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SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT CENTER IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Medical Center was the only Medicaid and Medicare certified organ and bone marrow transplant center in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Medical Center filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in June of 2011, the second time filing for bankruptcy in three years; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Medical Center searched to secure a buyer for the Hawai'i Medical Center East in Ewa, and West, in Liliha, as part of the bankruptcy proceedings; and

WHEREAS, after failing to secure a buyer, on December 28, 2011, the Hawai'i Medical Center closed its West center and later, the East center on January 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the closures, patients waiting for organ and bone marrow transplants were forced to travel to other states with transplant facilities; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society, the State's leading advocate to save more lives from cancer, is concerned over cancer patients seeking bone marrow transplants for leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma; and

WHEREAS, in wake of the Hawai'i Medical Center closures, other medical facilities have taken the lead in trying to establish a new transplant facility for bone marrow transplant patients; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that on January 21, 2012, the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Hawai'i Pacific Inc., unanimously voted to support efforts by the State and private sector to establish a new bone marrow transplant center in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Hawai'i Pacific Inc., hereby supports all legislative proposals in the 2012 Legislative Session to continue the provision of bone marrow transplantation services in Hawai'i including assistance for establishment of a new center.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosalyn Baker".

Rosalyn Baker
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melvin P. Palalay".

Dr. Melvin P. Palalay
Board President