

Friday, January 27, 2012

Conference Room 329

55 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4733

The House Committee on Health



**HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH**

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To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Pacific Health

Re: **HB 1952, HD1 RELATING TO BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS**  
**Testimony Requesting Amendments**

Good morning. My name is Dr Randal Wada. I am a pediatric hematologist–oncologist practicing at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) and have treated many young bone marrow transplant patients at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children over the years.

HPH is committed to continuing comprehensive bone marrow transplant services to our very vulnerable pediatric patient population, for whom travel to the Mainland for care is less feasible than for adults. We are concerned about the loss of the adult bone marrow transplant program at HMC and the negative effect this will have on adult cancer patients. However, the hospital's closure has also jeopardized our ability to perform transplants on children because of the concomitant loss or endangerment of vital support services that were previously housed there.

Key among them are the apheresis program, which provides the means to collect blood stem cells for subsequent transplantation, as well as the laboratory services needed to properly prepare these cells.

We estimate it will require about \$500,000 to support start up costs for a replacement stem cell collection program, which includes equipment, staffing and training. These resources could also be used to provide therapy for non-transplant patients with a range of neurological, hematological and auto-immune conditions. Once the pediatric bone marrow transplant program is firmly established, we will study the feasibility of support for adult transplants.

While it could ultimately become more self-sustaining, the initial costs of such a program would be difficult for us to bear, especially since we are in the midst of a major ongoing capital campaign to modernize and expand our hospital. For this reason, it is also unlikely that we would be able to secure additional matching funds to develop this new service, and, respectfully, request that this requirement be deleted from the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial*



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 329  
January 27, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

**Supporting HB 1952 Relating to Bone Marrow Transplants.**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1952, which appropriates funds for Hawaii Pacific Health to establish a bone marrow transplant center.

A bone marrow transplant replaces bone marrow that is either not working properly or has been destroyed by chemotherapy or radiation. Hawaii's only bone marrow transplant center closed earlier this year when Hawaii Medical Centers ceased operations. Patients who require bone marrow transplants must now travel to the mainland for treatment. Hawaii Pacific Health has stepped up to establish a bone marrow transplant center so that Hawaii residents do not have to endure the travel and incur the expense of going to the mainland for treatment.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HB 1952.