



LATE

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January 26, 2012

House Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 329
January 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

HB 1952 - Relating to Bone Marrow Transplants

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1952, which appropriates \$1,000,000, 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 this 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, reading "Rosalyn Baker".

Rosalyn Baker
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melvin P. Palalay".

Dr. Melvin P. Palalay
Board President

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 4:11 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1952 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1952

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

Thank you Chairman Yamane for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1952.

My name is Dr. William Loui.

I was born and raised in Hawaii.

In 1989, I graduated from the University of Hawaii John A Burns School of Medicine.

I did my training for Internal Medicine, Oncology and Hematology at the Mayo Clinic.

I completed a Bone Marrow Transplant fellowship at the City of Hope National Medical Center which is the third largest transplant center in the United States.

Since returning to Hawaii in 2000, I have been the only Fellowship trained Bone Marrow Transplant doctor in Hawaii.

For the past 10 years, I have served as the Medical Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program at St. Francis Medical Center then Hawaii Medical Center.

Currently, I am the Chief of the Oncology Department at Queen's Medical Center.

There is a crisis in Hawaii that can be solved. When the Hawaii Medical Center (HMC) abruptly closed in December 2011, this created a major hole in the cancer care for people in Hawaii. More specifically, the bone marrow transplant program shut down.

Transplantation offers the light of hope in the darkness of fear. For many adults and children, bone marrow transplantation gives a chance for life. When someone has a cancer like leukemia and needs a transplant, time is of the essence. Now people have to travel to the mainland for care. Why do people have to go the mainland when it can be done just as well here in Hawaii?

Many people are not aware that there were TWO transplant programs at Hawaii Medical Center (HMC). One program was for solid organ (liver and kidney) and another was for bone marrow for cancers (leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma).

Since Dr. Livingston Wong pioneered the first bone marrow transplant in 1978 in Hawaii, over 250 men, women, and children have gotten a second chance at life. Bone marrow or blood stem cell transplants were performed at the HMC. For the past 5 years, there have been 16-20 transplants per year; two thirds are adults and one third are children. Pediatric transplants are performed at the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children. The stem cell collections were done by the apheresis team at HMC. Hawaii Pacific Health has committed to continue the pediatric transplants in the future, but not the adult transplants.

There are multiple parts to the bone marrow transplant program that also need to be saved. The Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry has been working since 1989. The Registry has worked up over 3,111 preliminary matches, 331 of which have gone on to donate bone marrow or stem cells. The Registry coordinated 217 bone marrow and 114 stem cell collections from unrelated donors. In addition, the Tissue Typing HLA lab is essential for both the solid organ and bone marrow transplant programs. This essential lab represents a shared resource for our community and deserves community support. Finally, Unrelated Donor Stem cell or bone marrow collections were previously done at HMC. These collections helped people outside of Hawaii; our bone marrow transplant program in Hawaii helps those in Hawaii.

Many residents of Hawaii can't afford to travel to the mainland, get a transplant, and stay afterwards for post transplant followup. Even with discounts, the housing cost for one person can exceed \$6000 for 3 months. The American Cancer Society is helping, but private organizations can't solve all of the problems. Of the 11 patients on the bone marrow transplant list before HMC abruptly closed in December, 6 have been urgently referred to transplant centers on the West coast.

The State of Hawaii will save money by supporting BOTH the solid organ and bone marrow transplant programs rather than sending patients to the mainland. When a patient travels to another medical center, many of the lab test, x-rays, and CT scans are unnecessarily repeated. Often there are costs in addition to medical care that the Medicaid programs have to pay such as travel, housing, and meals. In this case, the State of Hawaii will save more than \$500,000 per year by keeping the adult bone marrow transplant program alive in Hawaii.

Over past ten years, the bone marrow transplant program has shown overall results that are as good as or better than national averages. It would be impossible to rebuild these programs if the skilled personnel are lost to the mainland. These are programs in Hawaii worth saving. The Hawaii State Legislature needs to support both of the transplant programs.

There is extensive community support for keeping the bone marrow transplant program going. The American Cancer Society has expressed unanimous support for the program. There is extensive community support for keeping the bone marrow transplant program going. The American Cancer Society has expressed unanimous support for the program. There are many cancer doctors who also want the program sustained. The Board of Directors for Oncare Hawaii, the largest medical oncology group in Hawaii, has given their support as well.

Today, I want to testify in support of House Bill 1952 (HB1952). It is important to keep both the pediatric and adult bone marrow transplant programs alive.

There are three special people who are here to testify to their transplant experiences.

CT had a leukemia and is a transplant survivor. She works in two jobs. Her two daughters has been inspired to become nurses in Hawaii.

DK is a BMT survivor. Subsequently, he went back to school, got a Master's degree from UH in elementary education, and works now as a teacher in Makakilo

KN is a 20 year survivor from bone marrow transplant for leukemia.

David M. Kaneakua
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Kapolei, HI 96707
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LATE

My name is David Kaneakua, and I am a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed with lung cancer in February 2006. I do not know how I contracted this disease as I was not a smoker. I was hospitalized and had gone through a battery of tests, many of which were painful. I had two operations to biopsy my lungs, and it took weeks for the doctors to determine that I had stage four pulmonary lymphoma. My case was taken by a number of oncologists who told me that I was in need of a bone marrow transplant. To this day, I have not had this discussion with any of the doctors who had treated me, but I got the feeling that they had little hope for my survival. It was then that I was given to the care of Dr. William Loui who was in charge of the bone marrow transplant center at St. Francis Hospital, which had been taken over by the, now, defunct Hawaii Medical Center. On one consultation with Dr. Loui, I asked him if I was going to die, and I remember clearly the words that he had said to me: "David. You have a bad cancer, a very bad cancer, and it will eventually consume you." He could very well have said, "You are going to die. You have no hope." I was depressed for weeks and had resigned myself to not live to see the next year. For the next few months I was in and out of the hospital and had been receiving stronger and stronger doses of chemotherapy. My only chance of survival was to have a bone marrow transplant. My brothers and sister were tested, and by the grace of God, one of my brothers was a match. I received my bone marrow transplant on my birthday, November 7th of that year. I am now cancer free, and have been in remission for five years.

I recently got my Master's in Elementary Education and work as a fourth grade teacher at Mauka Lani Elementary School in Makakilo. None of this would have been possible without a bone marrow transplant.

For those who need a bone marrow transplant, they need to travel to the mainland for help. If I had to do so, I would not have been able make the trip for treatment because of the cost involved. Today, I am speaking for the friends with cancer who were not able to have a bone marrow transplant and died. I speak for those who need a bone marrow transplant but will not be able to receive one because there is no longer a transplant center in Hawaii. And I speak for those who will die if nothing is done to create another bone marrow transplant facility in Hawaii.

I am asking for help for these people who are in need of these services. There is a grave need for a bone marrow transplant center in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

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

David Kaneakua
Bone marrow transplant recipient
cancer survivor

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Roy Yonashiro [RYonashiro@stfrancishawaii.org]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 3:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 1952 Relating to Bone Marrow Transplants

Categories: Green Category

LATE

Aloha,

My name is Roy Yonashiro. I am a Recruitment Specialist with the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry. I would like to submit my testimony to my best recollection given this morning at the Senate hearing (Room 329) regarding HB 1952 Relating to Bone Marrow Transplants.

“Good morning, my name is Roy Yonashiro and I am a Recruitment Specialist for the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry. I work with patients who are searching for matching bone marrow donors and I find it not only very financially taxing on them, but also an emotional one also. I know of a patient, a single mother of two young children who was scheduled to undergo a bone marrow transplant but was denied because of the recent closure of the Hawaii Medical Center and their transplant program. Fortunately for her, her insurance allowed her to have her transplant elsewhere however, her children would have to remain in Hawaii. Can you imagine how hard it is for a mother to leave her children behind while she undergoes a life-saving bone marrow transplant?

I know there has been a lot of talking about financial costs and such we could on all evening talking about it. However, think about the emotional side of what patients and their families go through. You see, cancer or leukemia affects not only the patient, but the whole family. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.”

Mahalo,
Roy Yonashiro
Recruitment Specialist
Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry
2228 Liliha St. Room 105
Honolulu, HI 96817
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