

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 3:37 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jyadao@stfrancishawaii.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB608 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB608

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Joy Yadao  
Organization: St Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jyadao@stfrancishawaii.org](mailto:jyadao@stfrancishawaii.org)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

Organ transplant services are vital to our community. Expecting patients and their family members to travel to the mainland for life saving treatment is unreasonable and would be detrimental to the people of Hawaii. Please pass this much needed bill.

Testimony to the  
House Committee on Health

February 11, 2011  
9:00 am  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

**House Bill 608, HD1 – Relating to Health  
(to maintain Hawaii's CMS certified organ transplant center)**

Good morning Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the House Committee on Health. My name is Marilyn A. Matsunaga and I am here to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 608, HD1

The people of Hawaii are fortunate to have a CMS certified organ transplant center for kidney and liver transplants. This means that we meet national standards and criteria to qualify for this well-earned certification.

We are fortunate to have this vital health care resource in our state and it is one that we must protect. We live in one of the most remote places in the world. The distance between Hawaii and other population centers is measured in thousands of miles. For those with chronic kidney failure, care decisions are literally life and death.

Hawaii has one of the highest prevalence rates of chronic kidney failure in the United States. Our Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Japanese ethnicities are especially at –risk for the disease factors leading to kidney failure. And this is where having a CMS certified center becomes so crucial – we have a unique population profile not found anywhere else in the nation and our approaches to managing the risk factors leading to kidney failure along with the care needed in case of kidney transplant are valuable additions to the nation's medical knowledge base which contributes to more effective care for everyone.

This support is humbly offered at this time of economic struggles. This is one of the very few services that is so black and white – life and death – in its outcomes as kidney failure, treatment and transplant. I hope that our public funds can maintain Hawaii's ability to have this life saving health care resource in our state.

Thank you for your kind attention to my testimony.