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HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

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Friday, March 16, 2012; 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

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

From: Hawaii Pacific Health

Re: **SB 2958, SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH**
Testimony in Support

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

We respectfully submit the following testimony in support and request amendments be made to the bill on page 1, Section 2, lines 12-13 to read as follows:

"There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children to implement a peripheral blood stem cell/apheresis program."

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. The apheresis program provides the means to collect blood stem cells for subsequent transplantation, as well as the laboratory services needed to properly prepare these cells and is key to the bone marrow transplant program.

HPH is prepared to undertake development of an apheresis program for pediatric patients at this time. 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. We are willing to match this appropriation with an equal amount in expenses that HPH would commit to the pediatric bone marrow transplant program.

Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children is in the process of making the pledge to match the grant in aid application. The suggested amendment ensures consistency between the bill and the application for grant in aid for the establishment of the apheresis program at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii'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 Hospital.



WILCOX HEALTH



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 329
March 16, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Supporting SB 2958 SD2: Relating to Health

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 SB 2958 SD 2, which appropriates funds to create a new bone marrow transplant program in Hawaii.

Bone marrow transplants are most often performed for people with diseases of the blood or bone marrow, or certain types of cancer, such as leukemia. Since Hawaii's first bone marrow transplant was performed in 1978, more than 250 men, women, and children have received a second chance in life. The recent closure of Hawaii Medical Center East resulted in the loss of Hawaii's only adult bone marrow transplant program. Pediatric transplants are being performed at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, which Hawaii Pacific Health has committed to continuing.

Many Hawaii residents cannot afford to travel to the mainland to get a transplant and to remain there for the needed post-transplant follow-up. Not only are medical costs incurred, but there are other costs as well, such as travel, housing and meals. The cost of housing alone can exceed \$6,000 for three months. In addition, when someone has leukemia and needs a transplant, time is of the essence.

During the past 10 years, Hawaii's bone marrow transplant program has shown overall results that are as good as or better than national averages. Hawaii deserves to have it retained.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports SB 2958 SD 2.