

TESTIMONY

SB2958

HTH Committee Hearing 2/03/2012



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SB 2958, RELATING TO HEALTH

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**February 3, 2012
3:15 PM**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SB 2958 but
2 respectfully opposes the appropriation should it have a negative impact on the Department's proposed
3 supplemental budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** The sum of an appropriation is to be determined or so much thereof as may be
5 necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 out of the general revenues to the Department of Health.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health recognizes the importance of providing these
7 needed transplantation services. This procedure treats patients with leukemia and some solid tumors
8 such as breast and ovarian cancer. In Hawaii, about 15 patients a year are in need of bone marrow
9 transplants, the majority of whom must be treated within one to two months because of the aggressive
10 nature of the disease. Without a bone marrow transplantation program in the state, patients waiting for
11 transplantation would be left with the sole option of traveling to the mainland to receive potentially life-
12 saving services.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 2, 2012

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 229
February 3, 2012, 3:15 p.m.

SB 2958 - Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2958, which appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department of Health for the implementation of 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 American Cancer Society also wants to stress the need for facilities for *adult* bone marrow transplants. We supported a similar measure to provide matching funding for Hawaii Pacific Health to provide for bone marrow transplants. Hawaii Pacific Health, however, specified that its facility would only serve pediatric bone marrow transplants.

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 should ease the financial and emotional 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, appearing to read "Cory Chun", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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.

Handwritten signature of Rosalyn Baker in cursive script.

Rosalyn Baker
Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Dr. Melvin P. Palalay in cursive script.

Dr. Melvin P. Palalay
Board President



55 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Friday, February 3, 2012
Conference Room 229

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Pacific Health

Re: **SB 2958 RELATING TO HEALTH**
Testimony

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.

HPH is prepared to undertake the bone marrow transplant 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.

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 Hospital.



STRAUB
CLINIC & HOSPITAL

WILCOX HEALTH

Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

LATE

Testimony for HTH 2/3/2012 3:15:00 PM SB2958

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Laurie Temple

Organization: ACLU of Hawaii

E-mail: lt@acluhawaii.org

Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Testimony for HTH 2/3/2012 3:15:00 PM SB2958

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brenda Kosky

Organization: Individual

E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Very needed!