

**TESTIMONY**

**SB3039**

**HTH, JDL  
Committee Hearing  
02/15/2012**

Testimony for HTH 2/15/2012 3:30:00 PM SB3039

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ken Akinaka, MRA

Organization: Hepatitis Support Network of Hawaii

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Submitted on: 2/11/2012

Comments:

I am highly in support of finding a way for people who are infected with HIV to be able to get liver transplants in Hi when appropriate to help save their lives.

This currently being done in other states. People infected with HIV can have successful liver transplants. In some areas of the US, more HIV positive people are dying from liver disease a used by Hep C than from other AIDS related diseases.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green M. D., Chair

Senator Clarence Nishihara Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2012

TIME: 3:30 PM

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 229

**BILL: SB 3039**

**I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 3039**

Aloha Senator Josh Green M. D., Chair; Senator Clarence Nishihara,  
Vice Chair; and Committee Members,

17 years ago I had one of the deadliest diseases known to man attack me. There was only one medication to save my life but this medication would kill my kidneys. I went on dialysis for almost five years.

In March 2004 a kidney was available for transplant and I was on the transplant list here in Hawaii for these 5 years. I was blessed and given The Gift of Life of a new kidney. I had a new start of life.

Everyone should have a chance at a healthier life. The government is to save lives no matter what the patient has. Even killers in prison can get transplants. Every person has a right to life if a transplant can help now or in the future.....**But For The Grace Of G-D Go You!**

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sol Rattner

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**I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 3039**

Aloha Senator Josh Green M. D., Chair; Senator Clarence Nishihara,  
Vice Chair; and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to testify. I am the wife of a transplant recipient as well as a mother and caregiver to a HIV infected son. I have seen the results of what transplant organs did for many families and their loved ones. Lives being changed and renewed, as well as the sorrow of families and their courage to allow a gift of life to sick and dying strangers, so that their loved ones would not die in vain.

The problem that the State of Hawaii is having, relates to the fear, and stigma of the HIV patient somehow affecting everyone around them. Some believe they should and will die an early death from their illness.

The true fact is my son was diagnosed with HIV 28 years ago, and is still trying to fight for his life. He is happy and contented with most of his life. Recently he found out that one of his medications can cause kidney failure, if taken for 3 years. My son was on this medication for 6 years before any warning was issued.

He stopped using the medicine when the warning was posted by the FDA. Two months later he found himself on dialysis.

My son's team of Physicians all wrote referrals to recommend him for kidney transplant and he was denied from the only facility and transplant team in the Pacific. There was no explanation of any kind, only mentioning that his HIV medical condition precludes him from any transplant. The facility closed within a week.

Due to these circumstances, when there were no longer any transplants being done in the entire State of Hawaii, he was forced to apply and was accepted for transplant in California. Amazingly they didn't have a problem with his HIV status.

When new facilities open up for transplants in Hawaii they should accept all patients that need their help to save their lives without any stigmas of any kind. If this Bill is passed and signed into law, then this legislature protects all the people.

Thank you for considering my testimony in your decision.

Lila G. Rattner

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