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February 20, 2013
TESTIMONY OF STANLEY CHANG
COUNCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
On
H.B. No. 1440 HD1, RELATING TO DRIVER EDUCATION
Friday, February 22, 2013
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 1440 HD1 Relating to Driver Education as a Councilmember for the City and County of Honolulu.

The purpose of this H.B. 1440 HD1 is to increase awareness about organ and tissue donation among new drivers and would require driver education programs to include the distribution of information on organ and tissue donation. An increase in awareness could lead to an increase in life saving donor organs.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your favorable passage of H.B. 1440 HD1 Relating to Driver Education and thank the Committee for allowing me to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley Chang", is written over a large, stylized, handwritten flourish that extends to the right.

Stanley Chang
Councilmember, District IV

Testimony for HB 1440 for COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 22, 2013

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 329

From: Cheryl L Albright, PhD, MPH

Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

I am a professor at the UH Manoa School of Nursing. I am providing testimony in support of HB 1440 “Relating to Driver Education”.

I have over 8 years of experience teaching adults and teens in Hawaii about organ donation and how they could become a designated organ donor on their driver’s license. Although 90% of Americans say they support donation, only 30% know what steps to take to become a designated organ donor. Every year the lives of thousands of children, teenagers, and adults are saved because someone decided to be an organ donor after their death.

I conducted a large research project to educate high school teenagers in Hawaii about the choice to become a designated organ donor on their first DMV issued Hawaii driver’s license/learner’s permit or state ID. The study is called the “**Idecide Project**” and it was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

We showed a 20 minute DVD/video to teens from youth groups and private schools located on Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and Kauai (enrolled 429 teens). The average age was 16 years and 80% were Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Pacific Islanders. The DVD/video was **filmed in Hawaii** and used students from Farrington high school (T-shirt Theater) as the young actors and Hawaii residents were the adult actors.

The video was formatted like a “reality show”, it did not pressure teens to become an organ donor. The two teen hosts of the video discuss how - when filling out the driver’s application – teens will need to make a decision about the question: “Do you want to be an organ donor?”. They tell the teens to: “get the facts, learn the truth, talk to your parents”. Finally the host says: “But, being is donor is is not the right choice for everyone, you need to educate yourself about what it means so you can make the choice that is right for you and your parents”.

At the end of the study (12 months) **almost half (40%)** of the teenagers who watched the DVD/video became a designated donor on their driver’s license and **almost all (70%)** talked to their parents about their choice to be a designated donor on the DMV application.

Hawaii’s teenagers are willing to watch an educational DVD/video about the choice to be an organ donor on their license and many who did later chose to become an organ donor.

The Idecide Project’s DVD/video titled “It’s just a little box” is available (for free) on YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/user/idecideproject>. And so teachers of driver’s education in Hawaii are free to use it in their classes.

Recently we gave 45 teachers in Hawaii (many of whom were teachers of driver's education courses) the DVD/video and an additional 483 students watched the DVD/video. **Almost 1,000 teens have already seen the DVD/video in Hawaii; thus, teachers and students are VERY receptive to learning about organ donation.**

I encourage you to pass HB 1440 I would be more than happy to answer any questions about the Idecide Project – my UH phone number is 956 9716 – my email is cherylal@hawaii.edu.