



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

The Honorable Josh B. Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230

S. B. 1233, RELATING TO LEAVES OF ABSENCE February 1, 2013, 1:15 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1233, Relating to Leaves of Absence. My name is Loraine Fleming, Director of Behavioral Health, Orthopedic, and Transplant Services at The Queen's Medical Center I am testifying on this measure in **support with concerns**.

The Queen's Medical Center recently celebrated its 1st year anniversary of our re-opened organ transplant center. It was a celebration of the successful critical healthcare service this center brings to the community. The organ transplant center is home to physicians and staff with over 20 years of experience in transplantation.

This proposal comes as we continue to build and grow this program with more organ donations and surgeries. Since the program is still in its relative infancy, the best gauge to determine likely impact of this measure is to look back when the center was housed at St. Francis – East. Then, at the height of operations, it is estimated that 22 live kidney and 20 bone marrow donations occurred, per year. Half of these donors were employed. It is significant to reflect on the lives saved yearly, comparative to the small number of employed donors who gave their gifts of life to the donor recipients. Furthermore, the act of bone marrow and organ donation is physically challenging, requiring adequate time for recuperation. Often times there is tremendous pressure for the donor to return to work as quickly as possible, to protect income and/or health insurance coverage. This measure would provide relief and support to recovering donors.

We recognize the unfunded employer benefit cost that could result from this measure, albeit we respectfully suggest the number of times this requirement might be utilized by an employee would be relatively minute.