



Affiliate of the National Marrow Donor Program

HAWAII MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION • 2228 LILIHA STREET, SUITE 105 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
Phone (808) 547-6154 • Toll Free (877) HI-DONOR • Fax (808) 547-6973

February 19, 2013

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee – Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 215
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 1233 – Relating to Leaves of Absence

I am writing to register my support for SB 1233, authored by Senator Glenn Wakai. SB 1233 will greatly benefit those volunteer donors of bone marrow, blood stem cells and living organs such as kidney. This bill will require certain private employers to grant paid time off for those employees who selflessly donate to save the lives of others in need.

Often, most donors must use their own personal vacation time or sick leave time off to donate. It puts a huge burden on the donor and if they cannot afford to take the time off of work, they are forced not to donate. In these difficult economic times, everyone is faced with financial obligations that limit their altruistic ways. More and more non-profit organizations such as the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry, The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii and The Legacy of Life depend on the public to support our mission of saving lives. This bill will help encourage so many people to become donors by eliminating that fear of losing income in order to help another person.

Based on my experience working with donors and patients, I know this bill will help so many people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Yonashiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roy Yonashiro
Recruitment Specialist
Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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

S. B. 1233, RELATING TO LEAVES OF ABSENCE
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Room 016

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 and 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.

February 18, 2013

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 215
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 1233 – Relating to Leaves of Absence

I am writing to register my support for SB 1233, authored by Senator Glenn Wakai. SB 1233 will greatly support and allow volunteer donors of bone marrow, blood stem cells and living organs to do so with minimal financial constraints. This bill will require certain private employers to grant paid time off for those employees who donate to save the life of their fellow human being.

I donated my bone marrow on February 10, 2010 and was able to do so without worrying about my financial obligations because my employer fully supported me by allowing me the time off with pay. I do understand that most donors must use their own personal vacation time or sick leave time off to donate. It really puts a huge burden on the donor, and if they are not allowed to take time off with pay, they may be forced not to donate and save a life.

I have the most gratifying news I would like to share with you. On February 2, 2013, I had the honor and privilege of meeting my bone marrow recipient, Mr. Allen Agor, and his beautiful wife, Chris. It's hard to describe the profound happiness and elation my family and I felt upon meeting such a wonderful couple that survived an almost insurmountable ordeal!

I believe that we need public support in helping such fine non-profit organizations as the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry, The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, the Legacy of Life, and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Foundation with their mission of saving lives. When a barrier such as the loss of essential income is eliminated, more donors would be able to help save precious lives.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Karen S. Ochiai

Karen S. Ochiai
Bone Marrow Donor
Cell: 808-352-5000

February 18, 2013

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State Capitol, Room 016
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Respectfully,

Karen S. Ochiai

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Bone Marrow Donor
Cell: 808-352-5000

February 18, 2013

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Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 016
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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I am a bone marrow donor recipient, and my life was saved from certain death by the selfless act of my donor, a local woman, who donated her bone marrow on February 10, 2010, and was able to do so without worrying about her financial obligations as employer fully supported the time off with pay.

Mrs. Karen Ochiai, was my donor, and is also supporting this Bill via separate correspondence. Today is the 3rd anniversary of my bone marrow transplant, and because of her generosity to a stranger, my wife and I were given back our lives. There were 19 possible donor matches identified, but they were deemed incompatible and my prognosis for survival was not good.

Mrs. Ochiai was #20, who appeared at the 11th hour with a 94% match, a one in 10 million probability, saving my life. I am fully engrafted with her stem cells, we are now genetic brother and sister, and our families have since met and are now extended Ohana.

I understand that most donors must use their own personal vacation time or sick leave time off to donate. It puts a significant burden on the donor, and if they are not allowed to take time off with pay, they may be forced not to donate and save a life.

I believe that we need public support in helping such fine non-profit organizations as the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry, The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, the Legacy of Life, and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Foundation with their mission of saving lives. When detriments such as the loss of essential income is eliminated, more donors would be able to help other persons in need of life-saving procedures.

Please call me if you have any questions.
Sincerely,

Allen T. Agor
Supporter of SB 1233
Bone Marrow Recipient
Home: 808-395-8042
Cell: 808-351-4953

February 18, 2013

Senator Chairing the Hearing Committee
Room 016

Re: SB 1233 – Relating to Leaves of Absence

To: Honorable Senator Clayton Hee

I am writing to register **my support** for SB 1233.

SB1233 will greatly support and allow volunteer donors of bone marrow, blood stem cells and living organs to do so with minimal financial constraints.

Most donors must use their own personal time or sick leave to participate in the process. If donors could have time off with pay there would be more people to donate and save lives. This act of kindness and giving should be rewarded without the financial burden of worrying about how the bills will get paid.

I would have never known about this bill had it not been for a bone marrow transplant survivor that I have recently become friends with. I am thankful for the person who donated. Had it not been for the donor I would have never met this friend. It is hard to believe that when a donor match is found, there are so many other variables that made it so much more difficult than it already is.

Lives are more important!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle G. Carr". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Gayle Carr
7524 Makaa Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

808-284-4986

From: David I Yamada
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: **Roy Yonashiro** roy.yonashiro@hbmdr.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1233
Date: Tuesday February 19, 2013

Testimony for HTH

Employment; Leave of Absence; Organ, Bone Marrow, or Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donation

Aloha, my name is David I. Yamada and I am a two (2)-time Bone Marrow donor. I was fortunate and extremely lucky to have been a match for an unrelated recipient in 1999. The Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry contacted me after my potential match was discovered in the San Francisco Bay Area AADP (joined the Asian American Donor Program 4 years earlier) shortly after my relocation back to Hawaii. I had just buried my father at the Punchbowl after succumbing from Multiple Myeloma Bone Marrow Cancer! I was his caregiver that could not save him nor comfort him from his devastating disease. Alas, my redemption was granted before me in this miracle to serve someone else. It would be a travesty for a recipient to lose their struggle due to a company not supporting or allowing their employee to take the time off without the worry of pay or retribution from work.

Upon the initial meeting and introduction of the process and examination with the HBMDR, there were times where it was necessary to leave work to complete the critical time sensitive procedure promptly. As a Store Manager at the time, it was very difficult to leave work. However, through special personal concessions I made with employer and owners of the company I was able to proceed with all the requirements to donate. If I may stress the need to understand that a human life is at stake, the potential donors must and should have the understanding and the support of their employer and community at large.

It is imperative that you reconsider this measure to help save lives. I beseech your empathy on behalf of all the families who have endured this wretched chapter in their once peaceful existence.

My recipient and her family have been blessed with a healthy recovery and live a full life! I was granted the gift of meeting her and her Ohana from around the world a few years after her transplant here in Hawaii. I now have a daughter!

If I may be so bold as to challenge anyone of you who have any doubts as to whether this Bill 1233 is worth the trouble or validity, please attend a first time meeting of a donor and recipient. There were no dry eyes in the room! My heart is full....

I appreciate your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,
David I. Yamada-2 time donor
Pharmacy Technician

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Luci Dwight
(808) 271-7992; lucidwight@hawaiiantel.net

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 10:00 am

Subject: **OPPOSE SB 1233, Relating to Leaves of Absence**

My name is Luci Dwight and I am a living kidney donor. When I did my donation over 10 years ago to my Dad, I was working at a local, private company. I was in the hospital for five (5) days and home recovering an additional four (4) weeks. My employer allowed me to use my accrued sick leave, which was at the maximum of five (5) days. For the remaining month, I had incorrectly assumed that it would be covered under temporary disability insurance (TDI), as that is what other donors I had spoken with were able to do. I was told by the insurance representative that because it was an elective surgery like "breast implants" (their choice phrase), it would not be covered. Believe me, if there was another way of helping my Dad, I would have.

Although my situation could have benefited from having paid leave, I cannot support SB 1233 which requires employers to establish paid leave for their employees who choose to donate an organ, bone marrow, or peripheral blood stem cell donation. I support the intent; however, I oppose this bill. Yes, it would be great to not have financial hardship due to the donation. But no, I don't believe an employer with 50 employees should shoulder the burden.

Instead of SB 1233, I humbly request that TDI include these living donations, especially since some insurance companies are already choosing to support this. The conflict arises with inconsistencies among varying insurance companies and not knowing if you will be covered until you submit a claim.

I often wonder what the insurance company would have thought if I had saved my Dad from a burning building instead. Because I didn't have to make a split second decision, but rather had three (3) months of medical screening that lead up to my donation, they interpreted my actions as something that I had brought upon myself and I could have chosen not to donate. How many of us can stand aside and watch a loved one get sicker by the day? That was our burning building.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing SB 1233.

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 11:33 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: sigi3@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1233 on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM

SB1233

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
thelma chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: What is more important than saving lives. I support any effort to make it easier for bone marrow donors to do just that. They need to be rewarded for their moral courage in doing the right thing. We never know when we will be the ones in need for this gift of life --for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren, our friends and neighbors. Thank you. Thelma Chang

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 11:01 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: b125577@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1233 on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM

SB1233

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in support of SB1233. I recently met the bone marrow donor who saved my husband's life and she related to me some of what she went through to donate her stem cells. Not only is time for the procedure necessary, but there are many tests to be performed in the medical facility and sufficient recovery time is necessary as well. Luckily my husband's donor worked for a company that was very understanding and supportive and she could be away from work without problem. However, other employers may not be as generous with leave time and this Bill would be very helpful to those who are already selflessly giving life to another. Thank you for your consideration, Chris Mayer

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hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2013 10:12 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1233 on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM*

SB1233

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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