TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN OPPOSITION TO S.B. NO. 341

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2013

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

To: Chairperson Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the SB 34\
Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in OPPOSITION to Habe No. 134, relating to Disposition of Remains. This opposition applies only to the immunity contained in section 11 of the Bill.

The grant of immunity from civil liability contained in section 11 is overly broad, unnecessary and bad public policy. It is suggested that the following sentence be added to the end of section 11: "The immunity contained in this section shall not apply to gross negligence, intentional, willful or wanton conduct."

The sanctity of final disposition of the human body and its remains requires that there be a reasonable level of care exercised in the handling and disposition of the body and its remains. We trust that there is no disagreement that grossly negligent, intentional or wanton conduct should not be permitted and their exclusion from immunity is appropriate.

For these reasons, HAJ opposes this measure as drafted and asks that it be amended to appropriately limit the scope of the immunity provided in section 11.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions.