



Testimony by:
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 29, 2016
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

H.B. No. 1775
RELATING TO DRIVER EDUCATION; ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

House Committee on Health

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** H.B. 1775 relating to drivers education, which requires information on organ and tissue donation to be included in the curriculum for the statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

The proposed bill would also require driver education instructors to do the following:

- To notify parents or guardians of the instruction relating to organ and tissue donation
- To make instructional materials available for inspection by parents or guardians
- To obtain consent to provide instruction from parents or guardians

In the Department's opinion, asking the instructors to implement these additional responsibilities takes away from the main focus of teaching students about driver education.

The DOT has concerns that the bill would require additional resources to develop the material for the new curriculum, implement the new program, and oversee this initiative. It would also set a precedent for other initiatives to seek inclusion into the program.

Additionally, the new curriculum may conflict with certain religious, cultural and/or familial beliefs. Families who may practice these beliefs may not welcome the topic of organ and tissue donation as part of driver educational instruction mandated by the legislation. We recommend that topics such as organ and tissue donation be left to the discretion of the parents as to when to discuss such issues with their school-aged children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1775
RELATING TO DRIVER EDUCATION**

by
Stephen A. Kula, Ph.D., NHA
President and CEO
Legacy of Life Hawaii

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29; 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of Legacy of Life Hawaii in strong support of HB 1775, requiring information on organ and tissue donation to be included in the curriculum for the statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

Legacy of Life Hawaii currently provides organ and tissue donation information at the request of driver education teachers statewide. Typically an organ/tissue recipient accompanies a Legacy of Life Hawaii representative to offer firsthand testimonials and answer any questions that students may have. Legacy of Life Hawaii will also cover any costs associated with this curriculum to ensure the State will bear no financial burden.

Since 1989 Legacy of Life Hawaii has been saving lives through the generosity of organ and tissue donors who have given the Gift of Life so others may live. Ultimately this measure will encourage more people to serve as donors and help save and enhance the lives of too many critically ill patients in need of these transplants.

I, therefore, urge this Committee to give HB 1775 your favorable consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of Legacy of Life Hawaii in strong support.

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legacyoflifehawaii.org



**Testimony on House Bill 1775
Relating to Driver Education**

By

Mackenzie Dawson
Moanalua Middle School
House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29; 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

I support the HB1775 Bill requiring education on organ and tissue donation to be included in the curriculum for the statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

In Hawaii, every driver is asked when applying for a license, if they wish to be an organ or tissue donor. It is very important to educate new drivers on the importance of organ donation, which saves lives. Education will help get rid of the myths and doubts about organ donation. Because learners can opt-out of the donor education without penalty, there is no risk in adding this information to the curriculum.

I support this, and I ask that you support this because it will help students make informed decisions when applying for their driver's license and it will have no cost to the state, as Legacy of Life Hawaii will cover all costs associated with the curriculum.

Mackenzie Dawson

Mackenzie Dawson

808-347-5702

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1775
RELATING TO DIVER EDUCATION**

By Aaron T. Okubo

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29, 2016
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony as a resident of Hawaii in strong **support** of HB1775 to be included in the curriculum for the statewide school driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

With two (2) sons – 12 and 15 years old in 2006, I had received the ultimate gift, “the gift of life,” a liver and kidney transplant. After the surgery, doctors mentioned that if it weren’t for the organ donor, I would have only 8-10 days left to live.

I have had the pleasure of visiting students at Radford and Farrington High Schools on a number of occasions to share my life saving experience and to let them know there is nothing to be afraid of in signing up to be an organ & tissue donor.

Majority of the students were not familiar with organ & tissue donation so the passage of the bill would be a great way to make students aware of organ & tissue donation and one day they may save or enhance someone’s life.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my support with all of you. I humbly ask for your support of this very important and worthwhile bill.

Aloha,
Aaron Okubo
98-1369 Akaaka Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Phone #: 808-218-0849

**Testimony on House Bill 1775
Relating to Driver Education**

By
Olivia Hodges
Aliamanu Middle School

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29; 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

I support the HB1775 Bill requiring education on organ and tissue donation to be included in the curriculum for the statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

In Hawaii, every driver is asked when applying for a license, if they wish to be an organ or tissue donor. It is crucial to educate new drivers on the importance of organ donation, which saves lives. Education will help dispose of myths and doubts about organ donation. Because learners can opt-out of the donor education without penalty, there is no risk in adding this information to the curriculum.

I support this, and I ask that you support this because it will help students make informed decisions when applying for their driver's license and it will have no cost to the state, as Legacy of Life Hawaii will cover all costs associated with the curriculum.

Olivia Hodges
813-465-2010



**Testimony on House Bill 1775
Relating to Driver Education**

By
Emily Hanks
Aliamanu Middle School

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29; 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

I support the HB1775 Bill requiring education on organ and tissue donation to be included in the curriculum for the statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

In Hawaii, every driver is asked when applying for a license, if they wish to be an organ or tissue donor. It is very important to educate new drivers on the importance of organ donation, which saves lives. Education will help get rid of the myths and doubts about organ donation. Because learners can opt-out of the donor education without penalty, there is no risk in adding this information to the curriculum.

I support this, and I ask that you support this because it will help students make informed decisions when applying for their driver's license and it will have no cost to the state, as Legacy of Life Hawaii will cover all costs associated with the curriculum.

Emily Hanks

808-457-6992

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Hanks".

**Testimony on House Bill 1775
Relating to Driver Education**

By

Bella McRae

Moanalua Middle School

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29; 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

I support the HB1775 Bill requiring education on organ and tissue donation to be included in the curriculum for the statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver training program.

In Hawaii, every driver is asked when applying for a license, if they want to be an organ or tissue donor. It is crucial to educate new drivers on the importance of organ donation, which saves lives. Education will help dispel myths and doubts about organ donation. Because learners can opt-out of the donor education without penalty, there is no risk in adding this information to the curriculum.

I support this, and I ask that you support this because it will help students make informed decisions when applying for their driver's license and it will have no cost to the state, as Legacy of Life Hawaii will cover all costs associated with the curriculum.

Bella McRae
808-445-8535



**MTESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1775
RELATING TO DRIVER EDUCATION**

by
Peter Kruse

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Friday, January 29; 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health:

My name is Peter Kruse and I am a member of Hawai'i's donor family community. I am writing in support of House Bill 1775. This legislation will increase opportunities to educate the residents and students of Hawaii of the importance of organ and tissue donation.

On April 18th, 1998, my only daughter, Lokelani Kruse gave others a second chance at life through her gift of organ donation. Although, she was taken very young, Lokelani had a strong mind and a strong heart. She was only 16 years old when she was in the car accident that took her life. Yet, she had already taken a positive stand on organ and tissue donation, and in her high school essay, she stated she wanted to be an organ donor. So we honored her wishes. Today, I am very proud of her decision to be a donor-hero and to give the gift of life to those in need of life-saving transplants. Lokelani was able to be a kidney, liver, cornea and tissue donor. Because of her, lives were healed and improved. Since, that time I have committed myself to honoring Lokelani by telling her story, by promoting organ and tissue donation and by volunteering with Legacy of Life Hawai'i.

I support this legislation as it creates an opportunity for Hawaii to increase the number of donors statewide, and it provides a door to educate the next generation of the message of organ and tissue donation. I, therefore, respectfully request your support of this legislation and the lives that it represents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in honor of my daughter, Lokelani Martha Yoshimi Kruse.

Peter Kruse
PO Box 115
Eleele, HI 96705

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1775 on Jan 29, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1775

Submitted on: 1/26/2016

Testimony for HLT on Jan 29, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1775
RELATING TO DRIVER EDUCATION**

By Yolanda Domingo, Heart Recipient

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016, 8:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong **support** of HB1775 requiring organ and tissue donation curriculum in drivers education and behind-the-wheel driver training programs statewide.

My name is Yolanda C. Domingo, and I am a heart recipient. On Mother's Day 2000, I received my second chance at life. My donor's name is Steven Mitsuo Ginoza, and I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for his last selfless act to save another.

With my new lease on life, I have had the chance to give back and share my story with so many and that includes students in drivers' education classes at several high schools on O'ahu. It's been so rewarding to give these students a firsthand account of my experience, as well as to dispel any myths and misperceptions that they may have. In the end, I just want them to have factual information so they can make informed decisions for themselves and share what they have learned with their 'ohana. This bill would serve to raise awareness of the life-saving benefits of organ & tissue donation.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share my support with all of you. I respectfully ask for your support and passage of this important and worthwhile bill.