



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0549
RELATING TO UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD DONATION**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** SB0549 does not provide the resources necessary to implement the program and
2 requirements of this measure.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of SB0549 to statutorily establish an
4 umbilical cord blood donation program; however, we do not have the resources and capacity to fulfill
5 the proposed new requirements. The Department is concerned that SB0549 would require establishing
6 a new program and is outside of the current Executive Biennium Budget request.

7 The Department does not currently have staff or funding to conduct the proposed activities in
8 the measure to: develop, distribute educational information, and screening and consent forms, or to
9 develop and maintain a confidential registry, and to collect and report on statistical data on cord blood
10 donations for evaluation and research. The requirement to assure that all birthing hospitals to comply
11 with the new informed consent laws is beyond the current staffing capacity.

12 Our understanding is that the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank currently provides many of the services
13 outlined in the bill. Umbilical cord donation resources are already available for expectant mothers with
14 the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank that works in collaboration with the Hawaii Bone Marrow Registry and
15 Puget Sound Blood Center. The Hawaii Cord Blood Bank currently collects statistical data, maintains
16 confidential records of participating women and their families and maintains a registry of donors. Cord
17 blood collection is offered at six hospitals: Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, The
18 Queen's Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Tripler Army Medical Center, Castle
19 Medical Center, and Maui Memorial Medical Center.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB549
RELATING TO UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD DONATION

Senate Health Committee
Public Hearing- February 4, 2015
1:15pm, Conference Room CR414

By
Randal Wada, Medical Director
Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank
1319 Punahou Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

The Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank (HCBB) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to support measures aimed at improving patient access to transplant, including the collection and public banking of umbilical cord blood from Hawai'i's ethnically diverse population. Headquartered at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, it works in collaboration with the Hawai'i Bone Marrow Registry and Puget Sound Blood Center (PSBC) as well as island doctors, nurses and participating hospitals. Those hospitals include:

Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children
Queen's Medical Center
Tripler Army Medical Center
Kaiser Permanente
Castle Medical Center
Maui Memorial Medical Center

HCBB supports the intent of this bill which is to ensure that anyone having a child is made aware of options available to them in regards to their infant's umbilical cord blood following delivery. The umbilical cord, which is normally discarded, is rich in stem cells which can be used in place of bone marrow in transplants to help save the lives of patients with otherwise fatal diseases like leukemia and lymphoma.

There are over 12 million donors listed in the national registry yet only 1/3 of all patients needing a transplant have a matched related donor. As Hawai'i's only public umbilical cord blood bank, units donated to HCBB are processed, and stored by Puget Sound Blood Center. These units are listed on the National Marrow Donor Registry (Be The Match) and made available to patients in need of a transplant for treatment of aggressive blood cancers/ bone marrow failure. However many patients from ethnic minorities, such as Pacific-Islander or Asian background have a more difficult time finding even an un-related matched donor. Even more so if they are from a mixed ethnic minority.

HCBB informational brochures/ posters regarding public donation are available prenatally through physicians' offices and clinics. We also maintain a website www.hcbb.org, where expectant mothers can download our consent and screening forms.

Less than 20% of women delivering in Hawai'i donate their babies umbilical cord blood. Most expectant parents are unaware of its importance or of the existence of our public cord blood program. The majority of our donors are recruited and/ or enrolled in labor and delivery. This is not always the best time for such discussions or for mothers to provide informed consent.

While we applaud the Legislature for its interest in umbilical cord blood donation, the establishment of an umbilical cord blood donation program or registry would be a duplication of services already provided.

HCBB works collaboratively with Puget Sound Blood Center in maintaining a confidential registry (database) of umbilical cord blood donors and collects appropriate statistical data for the purposes of research and evaluation. Additionally, HCBB maintains confidentiality of records of women and their families participating in the program.

Public cord blood donation through HCBB is available at birthing facilities on O'ahu and Maui. We hope to extend public donation to all birth facilities in the state in the future.

We ask the committee to work with HCBB, and the participating hospitals in helping us to:

- Increase public awareness of various options available concerning their infants' umbilical cord blood. HCBB may be able to provide the birthing facilities with informational brochures, and/or handouts which would be given out in their registration offices, however that would need to be explored further.
- Provide HCBB with birth statistics from each island and birthing facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: pheckathorn@queens.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB549 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:05:10 AM

SB549

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paige Heckathorn	The Queen's Health Systems	Comments Only	No

Comments: SB 549, Relating to Umbilical Cord Blood Donation Senate Committee on Health Hearing—February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM Dear Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health: My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at the Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to provide comments on SB 549, Relating to umbilical cord blood donation. At QHS, we understand the importance of providing information regarding transplant procedures and have joined with many of our community partners to promote giving. The intent of this legislation is to help mothers and families to better understand umbilical cord blood donation. I would respectfully suggest that hospitals may not be the most appropriate location for expectant mothers and families to learn and engage with providers about their options for umbilical cord blood donation. Moreover, this legislation is not clear about which agency or body would be required to regulate the documentation and enforcement of signed consent forms. I would also suggest that creating more paperwork for patients and providers may take away time from face-to-face interactions between patients and providers. Thank you for your time and consideration of the above comments and recommendations.

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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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB549 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM*
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SB549

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie AuHoon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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