



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.C.R. 201**

**DESIGNATING APRIL AS ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 21, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Concurrent  
3 Resolution (H.C.R.) 201 designating April as Organ Donor Awareness Month in Hawaii to  
4 encourage residents in the state to learn more about organ donation and discuss organ donation  
5 with families, physicians, and religious leaders.

6 According to the national Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, there were  
7 nearly 6,900 living donor transplants in 2018. This represented the highest total since 2005,  
8 increasing nearly 11 percent over 2017.<sup>1</sup> Despite the growing number of successful transplant  
9 operations each year almost 115,000 people in the U.S. are on the waiting list for a lifesaving  
10 organ.<sup>2</sup> In Hawaii, more than 430 seriously-ill people of various ethnicities are waiting for a life-  
11 saving heart, liver, kidney, or pancreas transplant. Hawaii's population is composed of sixty  
12 percent Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and African-American individuals, and these ethnic  
13 populations are at the greatest risk for end-stage organ failure. The majority of the transplant  
14 operations performed in Hawaii are kidney transplants.<sup>3</sup>

15 Act 88, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999, enacted statutory provisions relating to anatomical  
16 gifts to facilitate the donation of organs, including telephone access by an organ procurement

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<sup>1</sup> Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. <https://unos.org/news/in-focus/living-donation-reaches-nearly-7000-in-2018/>.

<sup>2</sup> American Transplant Foundation. <https://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/facts-and-myths/>.

<sup>3</sup> Legacy of Life Hawaii: <http://www.legacyoflifehawaii.org/media-kit/fact-sheet>.

1 organization to driver's license database information; a voluntary one dollar organ and tissue  
2 education fee attached to motor vehicle registrations; requiring an acute care hospital to report to  
3 the local organ procurement organization to determine the suitability of a potential donation; and  
4 establishment of the Hawaii organ and tissue education special fund to be administered by the  
5 DOH. Currently, the DOH's Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division  
6 administers the Hawaii organ and tissue special fund in section 327-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
7 (HRS) that was established through the organ tissue education fee in section 286.109.7, Hawaii  
8 Revised Statutes, pursuant to Act 88, SLH 1999. The funds are available exclusively for public  
9 education programs and activities on organ, tissue, and eye donation. In Hawaii, the designated  
10 agency to conduct the donor education is the Hawaii Organ Procurement Organization dba  
11 Organ Donor Center of Hawaii dba Legacy of Life.

12           The DOH supports H.C.R. 201 designating April as Organ Donor Awareness Month  
13 appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HCR-201**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 11:45:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HCR201. An organ donor awareness month will help save lives. Lists for organs are typically very long and too many people die waiting for organs.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei