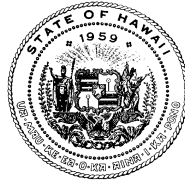


SCR169 / SR135

Measure Title:	DESIGNATING APRIL AS ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.
Report Title:	Designating April as Organ Donor Awareness Month in Hawaii
Description:	
Companion:	HCR201
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	K. RHOADS, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, INOUYE, RUDERMAN, S. Chang, Gabbard, Ihara, Kanuha, Keith-Agaran, J.Keohokalole, Kidani, Kim, Moriwaki, Riviere, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 169

DESIGNATING APRIL AS ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 28, 2019

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Concurrent
3 Resolution (S.C.R.) 169 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 2017.¹ 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.² 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.³

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

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

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

³ 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, HRS,
8 pursuant to Act 88, SLH 1999. The funds are available exclusively for public education
9 programs and activities on organ, tissue, and eye donation. In Hawaii, the designated agency to
10 conduct the donor education is the Hawaii Organ Procurement Organization dba Organ Donor
11 Center of Hawaii dba Legacy of Life.

12 The DOH supports S.C.R. 169 designating April as Organ Donor Awareness Month
13 appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 169
DESIGNATING APRIL AS ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII**

by
Leonard Licina, CFP, MBA, FHFMA
President and CEO
Legacy of Life Hawai`i

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 28, 2019

Room Number: 229

Legacy of Life Hawai`i supports Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 169 designating April as Organ Donor Awareness Month in Hawai`i. Educating Hawai`i's population about the life-saving value of organ and tissue donation is not only key to Legacy of Life Hawai`i's mission, it is an important step in building a healthy community.

Legacy of Life Hawai`i works in partnership with the State of Hawai`i Department of Health and the Department of Motor Vehicles in each of Hawai`i's four counties to educate the community that life is worth giving. To encourage organ and tissue donation in the community, Legacy of Life Hawai`i partners with hospitals, schools and employers statewide to conduct professional and public education and outreach.

Fifty years ago on August 9, 1969, a surgical team lead by Dr. Livingston Wong performed the first kidney transplant at St. Francis Hospital in Honolulu. Since then, more than 2,200 organ transplant surgeries have been successfully performed and countless lives have been impacted through organ donation and transplantation in Hawai`i.ⁱ

Legacy of Life Hawai`i joins a coalition of healthcare organizations including St. Francis Healthcare Systems, The Queen's Medical Center, The Queen's Transplant Center, Hawaii Bone Marrow Registry, HepFree Hawaii and The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii in celebrating the 50th

anniversary of transplantation. The theme for the 50th anniversary year of transplantation in Hawai`i is Ho`āla hou, meaning new awakening or to renew again and is symbolic of those who save and heal lives through their gift of organ, eye, tissue, stem cells, and bone marrow donation and transplantation. The ability to “make new again” is an awesome endeavor and in line with traditional Hawaiian practices of Aloha, selflessness, and living for the greater good rather than as an individual.

Hawai`i residents have demonstrated their willingness to Ho`āla hou by registering as organ/tissue donors either at the DMV or online at Donate Life America’s registerme.org. According to Donate Life America’s 2017 Annual Updateⁱⁱ, 55 percent of U.S adults have registered as organ/tissue donors. The total number of Hawai`i residents registered in the Donate Life Hawai`i Organ/Tissue Donor Registry is 706,765, indicating that 63 percent of Hawai`i’s eligible population have registered as organ/tissue donors.

We are all called to Ho`āla hou as donors (living and deceased), transplant recipients, healthcare providers, educators and advocates.

Legacy of Life Hawai`i supports S.C.R. 169 designation April as Organ Donor Awareness Month and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

ⁱ The Queen’s Transplant Center

ⁱⁱ https://www.donatelife.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2017_AnnualUpdate_singlepages_small.pdf

SCR-169

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:05:17 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/28/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SCR169. 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

SCR-169

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 6:50:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/28/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: