



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2340 HD1
RELATING TO DEAD BODIES.**

REP. ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: February 10, 2020

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this bill is to limit the anatomical gift of a body to a
3 named hospital, accredited medical school, dental school, college, university, or procurement
4 organization only for the purposes of the anatomical gift and to hold these entities responsible for
5 the final disposition of the dead human body, including obtaining the required disposition
6 permits issued by the Department of Health. The bill also creates the offense of abuse of a
7 corpse for the unauthorized acceptance of a donated human body and the unauthorized disposal
8 of a body without a disposition permit.

9 These amendments will protect vulnerable donors and their loved ones from making anatomical
10 gifts to anyone other than established recipients who are capable of handling bodies with care
11 and respect for legitimate medical or research purposes. It will prevent situations of body
12 donations to those persons who may not take the necessary steps to create a death certificate and
13 obtain a disposition permit for the body.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15

HB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 11:04:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerris Hedges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The John A. Burns School of Medicine provided written testimony in support of HB2340. I wish to note continued support for this measure as codified as HB 2340, HD1.

Jerris Hedges, MD

Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawaii - Manoa



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Monday, February 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Professor & Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2340 HD1 – RELATING TO DEAD BODIES

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

HB 2340 HD1 is proposed to amend chapter 327, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, relating to the medical and research use of bodies, and chapter 711, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, relating to offenses against the public order, to clarify prohibited actions related to anatomical gifts.

The Willed Body Program (WBP) at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has been supporting medical education as a body donor program in Hawai'i. Our mission at JABSOM is to educate current and future healthcare professionals and leaders. For the past 3 years, the JABSOM WBP has received about 180 anatomical gifts per year.

During the preclinical courses in the 1st and 2nd year, the medical students receive a basic science and clinical skills foundation upon which to build applied clinical knowledge throughout their continued education and practice. Gross anatomy is one of the foundational courses emphasized in the preclinical courses. During the first two years, medical students learn the anatomy of the entire body through gross anatomical dissection of human cadavers, or "silent teachers" as they are known in our program.

The WBP also supports medical education in anatomy for our surgery and orthopedic residency programs at JABSOM, for Hawai'i-based emergency personnel and other Allied Health Professionals, as well as supports Continuing Medical Education for certain physician specialties which are required to demonstrate maintenance of procedural skills for their continued licensure. Additionally, the WBP sets up multiple workshops in anatomy for local high school students who are interested in becoming future health care workers in Hawai'i.

The WBP recognizes and honors the goodwill of the “silent teachers” and their families. To show appreciation and intense respect for their “silent teachers”, JABSOM students hold an annual Memorial Service in April to which the families are invited. This meaningful service helps JABSOM meet our mission as a community-based and community-engaged medical school whose purpose is to train future physicians for Hawai‘i’s populations. Disposition of the donated bodies is done in accordance with the donor’s and/or family’s wishes and in accordance with Hawai‘i Revised Statutes chapter 327.

We are extremely committed to maintaining the highest standards in caring for these gifts – which is the purpose of Hawai‘i Revised Statutes chapter 327-11 and chapter 711-1108. Unfortunately, there have been instances where families or potential donors chose to donate their bodies to other entities or programs in Hawai‘i with resultant improper handling or disposition. We support HB 2340 HD1 in order to prevent such instances from occurring.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

LATE

HB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:48:02 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2340, HD 1. I am a member of the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

I notice that the word "organ" was deleted on page one, line 9 (prior to "procurement agency"), and suggest that the word be reinserted. I also suggest that "organ" be inserted before "procurement agency" on page 2, lines 8 and 15, and page 3, line 13.

Thank you for protecting vulnerable donors and their loved ones from making donations who may not treat those donations with the respect they deserve. And thank you for considering this suggestion.

Elizabeth Kent