
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
COLLABORATE WITH THE ORGAN DONOR CENTER OF HAWAII TO
INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF ORGAN DONATION IN THE
STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, medical technology has advanced to the point where
2 lives can be extended beyond what society had envisioned, even
3 as recently as twenty years ago; and
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5 WHEREAS, individuals are given the opportunity to donate
6 their healthy organs to persons suffering from liver disease,
7 kidney failure, lung injuries, and corneas for eyes; and
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9 WHEREAS, tissues, bone, and other anatomical parts can also
10 be used by those with injuries that require repair; and
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12 WHEREAS, through the miracle of transplantation, many of
13 our friends, neighbors, and family are now living healthy,
14 productive lives; and
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16 WHEREAS, there are over 94,000 individuals on our nation's
17 organ transplant waitlist, and unfortunately, less than half of
18 potential donors will say "yes" to helping others through organ
19 or tissue donation; and
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21 WHEREAS, 6,342 patients were removed from the national
22 waitlist for organ donation upon reaching their death in 2005;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, 375 patients are currently waiting for
26 life-saving organ transplants according to data provided by the
27 Organ Procurement and Transplant Network; and



1 WHEREAS, the need for donated organs and tissues continues
2 as there are thousands of people who would benefit if more
3 individuals were to become organ and tissue donors; and
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5 WHEREAS, to increase the number of available donors,
6 greater efforts are needed to inform people of the "gift" of
7 organ and tissue donation and provide them with the opportunity
8 of to save; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has provided a clear and simple method to
11 address this concern by allowing individuals to indicate on
12 their driver's license their willingness to be an organ donor;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii is the only
16 federally-designated, private, nonprofit, charitable
17 organization authorized to recover organs and tissue for
18 transplant in the State of Hawaii; thus, it should be given
19 greater assistance from public agencies in furthering this
20 wonderful initiative on multiple levels; and
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22 WHEREAS, organ-donation education programs in high schools
23 have been proven effective in other states in providing clear
24 information to students and dispelling false notions they may
25 have gained based on inaccuracies communicated through the
26 media; and
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28 WHEREAS, the donation of an organ or tissue should not be
29 cost-prohibitive for those who choose to help; however,
30 unfortunately many individuals and families undergo financial
31 and emotional stress in the process of donating an organ or
32 tissue; and
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34 WHEREAS, in 2004, the state of Wisconsin adopted what is
35 widely known as "Cody's Law," which was created to ease the
36 financial burden organ or tissue donors bear by providing a tax
37 credit for expenses brought about through the organ or tissue
38 donation process; and
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40 WHEREAS, taxable income costs of up to \$10,000 incurred by
41 individuals and families from donating all or part of a liver,
42 pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow, and expenses
43 that include travel, lodging, and lost wages, are eligible for
44 this credit; and



1 WHEREAS, since its inception, Cody's Law has been adopted
2 in ten other states and is being considered in more than two
3 dozen others; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature, Department of Education, and
6 Department of Health are ideally positioned to support the
7 efforts of those who seek to build an educated and healthy
8 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
13 Education and Department of Health collaborate with the Organ
14 Donor Center of Hawaii to increase awareness of the benefits of
15 organ and tissue donation in the State of Hawaii; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,
18 Department of Health, and the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii
19 develop programs that:
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- 21 (1) Provide clear and factual information to students
22 to help them make an informed decision about
23 organ and tissue donation;
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- 25 (2) Provide a means for encouraging students to
26 communicate their wishes about organ and tissue
27 donation to their families; and
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- 29 (3) Ensure that students who will soon gain their
30 driver's licenses will be presented with the
31 opportunity to become organ donors;
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33 and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports
36 living-donor programs such as Cody's Law, which provides
37 assistance when individuals are in the process of personally
38 donating organs or tissue to save the lives of the ill; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
3 Director of Health, the Superintendent of Education, the
4 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Executive
5 Director of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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