
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ORGAN TRANSPLANTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 The legislature finds that there is a critical shortage of
2 organ and tissue donors in the State to provide for all of the
3 patients in Hawaii awaiting transplantation. Currently there
4 are over ninety-four thousand patients on the national organ
5 transplant waiting list. Every thirteen minutes, a new name is
6 added to the waiting list, and every day, an average of
7 seventeen patients die while waiting for a transplant. In
8 Hawaii alone, there are almost four hundred patients awaiting a
9 heart, lung, liver, or kidney transplant, and for each of the
10 past five years, an average of nineteen patients have died
11 waiting for their second chance at life.

12 In Hawaii and across the country, the number of people
13 requiring a life-saving organ transplant continues to rise
14 faster than the number of available organs. This problem is
15 especially acute among minority ethnic groups. Data suggest
16 that minority populations appear to be at a higher risk for
17 life-threatening conditions that can lead to organ failure and
18 require a transplant. Some diseases of the kidney, heart, lung,



1 pancreas, and liver are found more frequently in racial and
2 ethnic minority populations than in the general population. For
3 example, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and
4 Hispanics are three times more likely to suffer from end-stage
5 renal disease than Caucasians. While some of these diseases are
6 best treated through transplantation, there are others that can
7 only be treated through transplantation.

8 Successful transplantation often is enhanced by the
9 matching of organs between members of the same ethnic and racial
10 group. For example, any patient is less likely to reject a
11 kidney if it is donated by an individual who is genetically
12 similar. Generally, people are genetically more similar to
13 people of their own ethnicity or race than to people of other
14 races. Therefore, a shortage of organs donated by minorities
15 can contribute to death and longer waiting periods for
16 transplants for minorities. For these reasons, the legislature
17 finds that more education and discussion among families is
18 necessary to encourage organ and tissue donation among minority
19 groups in Hawaii.

20 The legislature also finds that the Organ Donor Center of
21 Hawaii, the non-profit federally-designated organ procurement
22 organization for Hawaii, performs or coordinates the performance



1 of retrieving, preserving, and locating prospective recipients
2 for available organs. This includes evaluating potential
3 donors, presenting the option of donation to families, providing
4 medical management to donors, and placing organs according to
5 nationally established criteria. The legislature further finds
6 that the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii meets the requirements of
7 a grant recipient under section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes, and that a grant to the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii
9 to conduct public education programs and activities is in the
10 public interest and for the public health, safety, and general
11 welfare.

12 The purpose of this Act is to award a grant to the Hawaii
13 Organ Donor Center to expand organ and tissue donation education
14 efforts across all ethnic, religious, and age groups, to
15 increase the number of individuals consenting to donate organs
16 and tissue, to increase the supply of organs available for
17 transplant candidates, and to create the minority organ tissue
18 transplant education program to administer public education
19 programs on organ and tissue donation and transplantation among
20 minority communities.

21 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the state of Hawaii the sum of \$175,000, or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
 2 sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 3 2008-2009, as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised
 4 Statutes, to the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to expand organ
 5 and tissue donation education efforts throughout the State, to
 6 increase the number of individuals that consent to donate organs
 7 and tissue, to increase the supply of available organs for
 8 transplant, and to create the minority organ tissue transplant
 9 education program to administer public education programs on
 10 organ and tissue donation and transplantation among minority
 11 communities.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 13 of health for the purpose of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Health; Organ Transplantation

Description:

Awards a grant to the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to increase education and public awareness of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

