

Testimony

SB #567, Relating to Health

House Committee on Health

March 13, 2009 9:30 AM Room 329

Aloha Chair Yamane and members of the House Committee on Health. My name is Maisha Amare and I am a Master's Student at the University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying today to **strongly support** SB #567.

As many of the Blood Bank of Hawai'i's advertisements have said, about two hundred blood donors are needed every day to meet Hawai'i's blood donation needs (Blood Bank of Hawaii). Blood transfusions are needed for the many hospital patients and one blood donation can help up to three people (Blood Bank of Hawaii). There is no substitute for blood and for those who lose blood or can't produce enough blood, we have no other alternative than to use the generous donations from blood donors (Blood Bank of Hawaii). Although we have thousands of blood donors every year, the blood bank is reliant upon repeat donors and the need for blood is always present.

I have been donating blood since I was seventeen, the current minimum age to donate blood with parental consent, at my high school blood drive and it was one of the most remarkable experiences I have had. From a very young age, my mother has encouraged my sister and I to donate blood because she couldn't as a result of her travel to Africa. Through the experience of donating blood I became familiar with the process and all that it entailed. It is a slightly intimidating task that many don't donate because they are afraid or unfamiliar with the process. By starting at the age of sixteen, a person could donate approximately six pints of blood before the current legal donation age with parental consent. I believe that recruiting young donors introduces them to the process and creates life long habitual donors.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this legislation. If you have any questions regarding my testimony, please feel free to contact me.

Mahalo,

Maisha Amare

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Reference:

Blood Bank of Hawaii. *About Blood*. Retrieved March 10, 2009, from Blood Bank of Hawaii: <http://www.bbh.org/aboutblood/default.htm>

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From: Jackie Ng-Osorio [jngosorio@gmail.com]
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I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 567 Relating to Health.

By lowering the the minimum age required to donate blood, the number of possible donors will increase. Everyone who donates is able to save three lives, with more donors, more lives will be able to be saved.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony.

Jackie Ng-Osorio