



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • Fax: (808) 547-4646

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

February 5, 2010 – 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In Opposition to HB 2661, Relating to Anatomical Gifts

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Schultz, RN Vice President of Surgery, Orthopedics and Behavioral Health at The Queen's Medical Center (QMC). I am testifying for The Queen's Medical Center in opposition to HB 2661 which requires organ procurement organizations and transplant hospitals to procure and transplant medically suitable organs and imposes administrative fines and loss of accreditation for failure to comply.

The Queen's Medical Center is the largest private tertiary care hospital in the State of Hawaii. We offer specialized care in the areas of cardiology, neuroscience, orthopedics, behavioral health, oncology, women's health, emergency services and trauma care. We are designated by the American College of Surgeons as a Level II Trauma Center – the only one in the state.

While we appreciate the intent to improve the quality of life of Hawaii's people who need organ transplantation, we do not believe this bill is necessary. QMC actively works with the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to raise awareness of the value of organ donation. QMC also participates with Organ Donor Center of Hawaii on a committee that meets monthly to review every potential organ donation case. QMC's organ donation consent rate is comparable to the national average.

The Queen's Medical Center has been actively working with the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to improve the organ donation rate in Hawaii. We urge you to vote against House Bill 2661. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 4, 2010

In Opposition to HB 2661 - Relating to Anatomical Gifts

Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and Members of the Committee,

My name is Livingston Wong, MD, a retired Transplant Surgeon. I am testifying on behalf of Surgical Associates, the Transplant Team, the hospitals and organ procurement agencies.

Transplantation in Hawaii is a very small sub-specialty requiring a two year fellowship after the 5-7 years of surgical training in residency. The transplant surgeons are certified by UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing.) Each member must perform a minimum of one transplant within the past two years to remain qualified. There are a small group of surgeons capable of retrieving organs for transplantation. Surgical Associates as a Transplant Program and a general surgery group is already mandated by UNOS and Medicare to be available for retrieval and transplant.

All of the Hospitals and agencies, such as the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii and the National Marrow Donor Program, in Hawaii have been mandated by UNOS and Medicare to retrieve all possible usable organs and tissue for potential transplantation. The evaluation and retrieval of organs is an expensive process. All elderly patients, infected patients, patients with malignancies and "sudden" death patients do not qualify as organ donors. Our present system with hospitals, organ procurement agencies and physicians have all cooperated well to serve the people of Hawaii and are all approved by both UNOS and Medicare.

The HB 2661 is unnecessary and too restrictive to include a \$500,000.00 fine and loss of license.

I am opposed to HB 2661

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Livingston M.F. Wong, MD