MAR 0 1 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN HAWAII TO PERFORM ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION ON PATIENTS WITH HIV, ARC, AND AIDS.

WHEREAS, AIDS-related complex, or ARC, was introduced after discovery of the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) when the medical community became aware of the inherent difficulties associated with treating patients suffering from an advanced case of HIV which gave rise to the term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); and

WHEREAS, people with HIV were excluded as viable candidates for receiving organ transplants in the 1980s because most experts believed that the organs should go to people with a better chance of survival; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1990s, with the introduction of potent combination antiretroviral therapy, survival for people with HIV increased substantially, effectively ending arguments that they were less likely to live than their HIV-negative counterparts; and

WHEREAS, a New England Journal of Medicine article of November 2011 stated that concerns in the past relating to the necessity of utilizing anti-rejection medications to transplant already immunosuppressed HIV-positive patients have been overcome with solid evidence that there is no increase in either the incidence of opportunistic infection or an acceleration of HIV, as demonstrated in a recent large multi-center United States-based study; and

WHEREAS, an online Science Daily article of December 6, 2011, states that the Mayo Clinic in Florida is now offering kidney and pancreas transplants to HIV-positive patients with advanced kidney disease and diabetes, as evidence is now convincing that HIV-positive patients have the same favorable outcome in terms of patient and allograft survival as non-HIV-positive organ transplant recipients; now, therefore,

S.R. NO. 22

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, that health care facilities and health care providers in Hawaii are requested to perform organ transplantation on patients with HIV, ARC, and AIDS; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health which in turn is requested to transmit a copy of this Resolution to every health care facility in Hawaii, and to the Hawaii Medical Board which in turn is requested to transmit a copy of this Resolution to every person licensed under chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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OFFERED BY: