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To: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, March 21, 2014  
Time: 9:10 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. No. 2427, H.D.1, Relating to the Repeal of Non-General Funds

H.B. 2427, H.D.1, proposes to repeal certain non-general funds, including the returned ACH tax refund trust account as set forth in section 14 of this bill. The Department supports the repeal of this trust account.

Since 2012, with the collaboration of the Department of Accounting and General Services, the Department now handles all returned tax refunds directly; therefore, the returned ACH tax refund trust account is no longer necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2427, HD1  
RELATING TO THE REPEAL OF NON-GENERAL FUNDS**

by  
Stephen A. Kula, Ph.D., NHA  
President and CEO  
Legacy of Life Hawaii

Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, March 21; 9:10 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of Legacy of Life Hawaii in strong opposition to the provision in HB 2427, HD 1 that repeals the organ and tissue education special fund.

The organ and tissue education special fund was created by Act 122 of the 2008 Legislative Session. Act 122 specifically states that the fund “shall be used for public education and activities on organ, tissue, and eye donation.” Since then, Legacy of Life Hawaii has received \$147,800 from the special fund, which has been critically important toward funding our outreach efforts to increase public awareness, understanding, and visibility of donation specifically through:

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[legacyoflifehawaii.org](http://legacyoflifehawaii.org)



- **Public Events** – Legacy of Life Hawaii participates in more than 50 statewide public events a year, at least one per week. Events include the John A. Burns’ School of Medicine’s Health Fair, the Great Aloha Run, as well as the Kauai, Maui and Hilo County Fairs. Throughout the month of April, which is Donate Life Month, Legacy of Life Hawaii conducts public education campaigns, including proclamation signings on the neighbor islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai. All events are attended by volunteers, agency staff, donor families, and transplant recipients. In addition to the public events, informational briefings are conducted before more than 70 business, community, healthcare provider agencies to further promote, educate, and encourage donation.
- **Donor Remembrance Events** – Throughout the year Legacy of Life Hawaii hosts events to honor organ and tissue donors. These events are well attended by the news media to further boost the public awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. In 2013, events included:
  - April Proclamation Signing at the Queen’s Medical Center, in which the Donate Life America flag was raised and displayed for the remainder of April. The event was covered by KITV News. Each year at the end of April, Legacy of Life Hawaii hosts a Donor Remembrance Ceremony to honor organ donors who have given the gift of life. 500 donor family members and volunteers across the state attended this event, which was covered by local media, including the *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, KHON, KHNL, and KGMB.
  - Three meetings between transplant recipients and their organ donor families. Coverage was received by local broadcast media (KHNL, KGMB, KHON, and KITV).
  - Rose Parade Donate Life America floragraph finishing event – In December 2013, a floragraph finishing event was held at Punahou Schools to honor 2011 organ donor Kameron Steinhoff, a 2009 graduate of Punahou High School. The floragraph of Kameron was later placed on the Donate Life America float in the 2014 Rose Parade. The events were covered by KITV and KHON.
- **DMV Presence** – Beginning in 2012 Legacy of Life Hawaii created and distributed “Did You Check the Box?” posters in DMVs statewide, reminding DMV patrons to designate themselves as organ, tissue, and eye donors when renewing or applying for their driver’s license and/or state ID. The posters feature a wide cross-section of highly recognizable and influential local personalities who already are designated donors themselves, and they include:
  - **United States Senator (Hawaii):** Brian Schatz
  - **KHON2’s News Anchor:** Joe Moore
  - **KSSK Radio Personalities:** Michael W. Perry and Larry Price
  - **Hawaii News Now Anchors:** Keahi Tucker and Tannya Joaquin
  - **Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu:** Bishop Larry Silva
  - **Reigning Miss Hawaii:** Crystal Lee
  - **Award-winning Vocalist and Musician:** Raiatea Helm
  - **UH Women’s Volleyball Coach:** Dave Shoji
  - **UH Men’s Basketball Coach:** Gib Arnold

- **Public Schools** – Legacy of Life Hawaii launched its annual Creative Challenge Calendar campaign in 2010 in which public school students in grades 6 – 8 statewide are presented with the idea of saving lives by becoming organ, tissue, and eye donors. Students are asked to submit related artwork and our staff then selects the winning 12 entries to serve as the artwork for each month of the calendar. The idea is to plant the seeds for donation discussions and awareness among classes, students, and their parents. Legacy of Life Hawaii also conducts presentations before Driver’s Education classes in the public schools to reach out to and educate students who are about to apply for their learner’s permits.
- **Workplace for Life Campaigns** – Legacy of Life Hawaii has also launched Workplace for Life Campaigns in hospitals and businesses throughout Hawaii to encourage organ and tissue donation among staff. In 2013 and 2014, public education campaigns were launched at the Queens Medical Center, Tripler Army Medical Center and North Hawaii Community Hospital in Waimea. In partnership with Aloha United Way, Legacy of Life Hawaii annually conducts presentations at businesses across Oahu. Recently Legacy of Life Hawaii has initiated partnerships with Bank of Hawaii and UHA Health Insurance to rollout public education and volunteer campaigns to encourage organ and tissue donation in their organizations.
- **Media** – Organ, tissue and eye donation continues to receive extensive radio, print and television coverage in both mainstream and multi-cultural targeted media.
- **Brochure** – Legacy of Life Hawaii’s brochure includes answers to commonly asked questions about donation in Hawaii and has been distributed to hospitals, DMVs, libraries, schools, etc. statewide.
- **Web** – Legacy of Life Hawaii now has an updated website to share and disseminate information on the importance of organ, tissue, and eye donation.  
[www.legacyoflifehawaii.org](http://www.legacyoflifehawaii.org)
- **Green Ribbon Campaign** – Legacy of Life Hawaii initiated an awareness campaign in which the green organ donor awareness ribbons were created and distributed island wide. Approximately 25,000 ribbons have been distributed at community events, presentations, and retail outlets with messaging about organ donation and how to register to become an organ & tissue donor.

In addition to Legacy of Life Hawaii, the Hawaii Coalition on Donation (HCOD) is a beneficiary of this special fund. HCOD members include: Transplant Association of Hawaii, National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, Hawaii Lions Eye Bank and Makana Foundation, Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry, Surgical Associates, Inc., Living Donor Council, Hawaii Donor Family Council, and Blood Bank of Hawaii.

Since Act 122 was enacted in 2008, Legacy of Life Hawaii continues to generate a behavior shift with respect to organ, tissue, and eye donation awareness. The percentage of Hawaii drivers with “organ donor” on their license continues to increase

from 41 percent in 2009 to 54 percent in 2013. Efforts to raise awareness are ongoing as we continue to maintain a weekly presence by manning an information kiosk at local DMVs on Oahu to further encourage DMV patrons to register as donors. To date, the majority of families approached about organ donation have consented when the patient has “organ donor” on their license, resulting in 41 organ donors and 84 organ transplants last year.

Given the significant strides we have made since the special fund’s inception, we intend to expand our outreach efforts to the neighbor islands. Toward that end, we have submitted a \$142,000 Grant-In-Aid application before the Legislature this year. Our objective is to further broaden the scope of our public education outreach to include neighbor island communities, work places, schools, and hospitals to encourage a culture of donation statewide. While there are 444 people in Hawaii currently waiting for a life-saving transplant, it is imperative to note that Asian, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and African Americans are at especially high risk for organ failure, and these groups comprise 60% of Hawaii’s population. With this in mind, Legacy of Life Hawaii continues to fulfill the mandate of Act 122.

For 25 years Legacy of Life Hawaii has been saving lives through the generosity of organ and tissue donors who have given the Gift of Life so others may live. I, therefore, urge this committee to reconsider repealing the organ and tissue education special fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of Legacy of Life Hawaii in strong opposition.