

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:00 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: pheckathorn@queens.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB560 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM

HB560

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paige Heckathorn	The Queen's Health Systems	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Chairwoman Belatti and Members of the House Committee on Health: My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at the Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to provide comments on HB 560, relating to umbilical cord blood pre-registration forms. At QHS, we understand the importance of providing information regarding transplant procedures and have joined with many of our community partners to promote giving. The intent of this legislation is to help mothers and families to better understand umbilical cord blood donation. I would respectfully suggest that hospitals may not be the most appropriate location for expectant mothers and families to learn and engage with providers about their options for umbilical cord blood donation. Moreover, this legislation is not clear about which agency or body would be required to regulate the documentation and enforcement of signed consent forms. I would also suggest that creating more paperwork for patients and providers may take away time from face-to-face interactions between patients and providers. Thank you for your time and consideration of the above comments and recommendations.

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HB 560
RELATING TO UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD REGISTRATION FORMS

House Committee on Health
Committee Hearing- February 4, 2015
9:00 a.m., House Conference Room 329

By
Randal Wada, Medical Director
Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank
1319 Punahou Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

The Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank (HCBB) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to support measures aimed at improving patient access to transplant, including the collection and public banking of umbilical cord blood from Hawai'i's ethnically diverse population. Headquartered at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, it works in collaboration with the Hawai'i Bone Marrow Registry and Puget Sound Blood Center (PSBC) as well as island doctors, nurses and participating hospitals. Those hospitals include:

Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children
Queen's Medical Center
Tripler Army Medical Center
Kaiser Permanente
Castle Medical Center
Maui Memorial Medical Center

HCBB supports the intent of this bill which is to ensure that anyone having a child is made aware of options available to them in regards to their infant's umbilical cord blood following delivery. The umbilical cord, which is normally discarded, is rich in stem cells which can be used in place of bone marrow in transplants to help save the lives of patients with otherwise fatal diseases like leukemia and lymphoma.

There are over 12 million donors listed in the national registry yet only 1/3 of all patients needing a transplant have a matched related donor. As Hawai'i's only public umbilical cord blood bank, cord blood units donated to HCBB are processed, and stored by Puget Sound Blood Center. These cord blood units are listed on the National Marrow Donor Registry (Be The Match) and made available to patients in need of a stem cell transplant for treatment of aggressive blood cancers/bone marrow failure. However many patients from ethnic minorities, such as Pacific-Islander or Asian background have a more difficult time finding even an un-related matched donor. Even more so if they are from a mixed ethnic minority.

Less than 20% of women delivering in Hawai'i donate their babies umbilical cord blood. Most expectant parents are unaware of its importance or of the existence of our public cord blood program.

HCBB informational brochures/posters regarding public donation are available prenatally through physicians' offices and clinics. We also maintain a website www.hcbb.org, where expectant mothers can download our consent and screening forms. In light of these opportunities, the majority of our donors are recruited and/or enrolled in labor and delivery. This is not always the best time for such discussions or for mothers to provide informed consent.

Providing expectant parents with information on umbilical cord blood during the hospital registration process would help to increase public awareness. Particularly, if mothers were given information on options available to them and who to contact, before hospital admission.

HCBB may be able to provide the birthing facilities with informational brochures, and/or handouts which would be given out in their registration offices; however that would need to be explored further. We ask the committee to work with HCBB, and the participating hospitals in making this a workable strategy.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:01 AM
To: HLTtestimony
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB560 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM

HB560

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha HEALTH Committee Chair and Members, I stand in FULL SUPPORT of HB 560 RELATING TO UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS and would only like to suggest that it be amended to include a forth option in Section 2 of the new chapter. My suggested wording is (but not limited to): (4) Immediate and direct parental possession for the expectant parent's continuation of their traditional and cultural practice. Mahalo for allowing my late testimony and especially to the young Farrington High School student for bringing this study forward for legislative adoption. Me ka ha'aha'a, Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

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