



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Comments in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 169, SD1**

**DESIGNATING APRIL AS DONATE LIFE MONTH IN HAWAII**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 11, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Concurrent  
3 Resolution (S.C.R.) 169, Senate Draft (SD) 1 designating April as Donate Life Month in Hawaii  
4 to encourage residents in the state to learn more about organ donation and discuss organ donation  
5 with families, physicians, and religious leaders.

6 According to the national Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, there were  
7 nearly 6,900 living donor transplants in 2018. This represented the highest total since 2005,  
8 increasing nearly 11 percent over 2017.<sup>1</sup> Despite the growing number of successful transplant  
9 operations each year almost 115,000 people in the U.S. are on the waiting list for a lifesaving  
10 organ.<sup>2</sup> In Hawaii, more than 430 seriously-ill people of various ethnicities are waiting for a  
11 lifesaving heart, liver, kidney, or pancreas transplant. Hawaii's population is composed of sixty  
12 percent Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and African-American individuals, and these ethnic  
13 populations are at the greatest risk for end-stage organ failure. The majority of the transplant  
14 operations performed in Hawaii are kidney transplants.<sup>3</sup>

15 Act 88, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999, enacted statutory provisions relating to anatomical  
16 gifts to facilitate the donation of organs, including telephone access by an organ procurement

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<sup>1</sup> Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. <https://unos.org/news/in-focus/living-donation-reaches-nearly-7000-in-2018/>.

<sup>2</sup> American Transplant Foundation. <https://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/facts-and-myths/>.

<sup>3</sup> Legacy of Life Hawaii: <http://www.legacyoflifehawaii.org/media-kit/fact-sheet>.

1 organization to driver's license database information; a voluntary one dollar organ and tissue  
2 education fee attached to motor vehicle registrations; requiring an acute care hospital to report to  
3 the local organ procurement organization to determine the suitability of a potential donation; and  
4 establishment of the Hawaii organ and tissue education special fund to be administered by the  
5 DOH. Currently, the DOH's Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division  
6 administers the Hawaii organ and tissue special fund in section 327-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
7 (HRS) that was established through the organ tissue education fee in section 286.109.7, HRS,  
8 pursuant to Act 88, SLH 1999. The funds are available exclusively for public education  
9 programs and activities on organ, tissue, and eye donation. In Hawaii, the designated agency to  
10 conduct the donor education is the Hawaii Organ Procurement Organization dba Organ Donor  
11 Center of Hawaii dba Legacy of Life.

12           The DOH supports S.C.R. 169, SD1 designating April as Donate Life Month in Hawaii  
13 and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments.

**LATE**

**SCR-169-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 7:08:27 AM  
Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Don Tamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I request that an additional section or part for auditing wastewater operations by county of honolulu as a recreational fishing enthusiast. I would like to insure that waters especially around the outfalls are safe and that all treated sewage are below the allowable legal limits for contaminants per state and federal law.