

Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank
1319 Punahou Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

HCR180
RELATING TO UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD DONATION
By

Nola Faria, M.S., R.N. Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank, Program Director

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 House Concurrent Resolution 180 for the Department of Health to establish an umbilical cord blood awareness campaign.

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, units donated to HCBB are processed, and stored by Bloodworks Northwest (formerly known as Puget Sound Blood Center.) These units are listed on the National Marrow Donor Registry (Be The Match) and made available to patients in need of a transplant for treatment of aggressive blood cancers/bone marrow failure. However, many patients from ethnic minorities, such as Pacific-Islander or Asian backgrounds have a more difficult time finding even an un-related matched donor. Even more so if they are from a mixed ethnic minority.

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.

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. 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. HCBB has limited resources to conduct a statewide awareness campaign on the importance of umbilical cord blood and options available to expectant mothers. We support this resolution as it would greatly assist in getting information out to expectant mothers about the importance of cord blood and options available to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

Sincerely,
Nola Faria
Program Director
Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank



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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HCR0180
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN
UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 20, 2015 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Department does not have the resources necessary to implement the
2 comprehensive awareness campaign and requirements of this House Concurrent Resolution.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of HCR180 to establish an
4 umbilical cord blood awareness campaign; however, it does not have the resources nor the
5 capacity to fulfill the proposed requirements.

6 The Department finds that the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank (HCBB), an independent non-
7 profit community service organization currently provides the services and much of the
8 information outlined in HCR180. The HCBB's mission, "is to improve patient access to
9 transplant, including the collection and public banking of umbilical cord blood from Hawaii's
10 ethnically diverse population" (<http://www.hcbb.org/> Accessed 3-19-15). Umbilical cord blood
11 donation resources are already available for expectant mothers with the HCBB that works in
12 collaboration with the Hawaii Bone Marrow Registry and Puget Sound Blood Center. The
13 HCBB currently collects statistical data, maintains confidential records of participating women
14 and their families, maintains a registry of donors, provides informational brochures and posters
15 regarding public donation that are available prenatally through physicians' offices and clinics,
16 and maintains a website (www.hcbb.org), where expectant mothers can download resources on
17 umbilical cord blood donation. Cord blood collection is offered at six hospitals: Kapiolani
18 Medical Center for Women & Children, The Queen's Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente
19 Medical Center, Tripler Army Medical Center, Castle Medical Center, and Maui Memorial
20 Medical Center.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR180 on Mar 20, 2015 08:45AM*

HCR180

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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