

Letters to the Editor

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Consider donating umbilical cord blood

As people pay tribute to moms this Mother's Day, please remember that birth can be an event that gives hope to families all over Hawaii through the donation of umbilical cord blood.

Through the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank, our participating hospitals, and the hundreds of physicians and nurses who volunteer their time on our behalf, mothers can donate their baby's umbilical cord blood, which can then be used by patients fighting life-threatening blood disorders like leukemia and lymphoma. This process is free, painless and doesn't interfere with labor.

Hawaii's unique blend of ethnic backgrounds makes our state's cord blood donation program incredibly valuable, because patients in need of transplants are most likely to find a suitable matching cord blood unit donated by someone of similar ethnicity. Of the 185,000 cord blood units accessible on the national Be The Match Registry, less than 10 percent are Asian, less than 9 percent are mixed race and only 0.1 percent are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Randal Wada
Medical director, Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank

Next UH president must sustain quality

As the University of Hawaii seeks a new president, the public should remember that universities exist so students can earn degrees that will help them build successful careers. A degree's worth parallels its effectiveness in securing sound employment.

While a UH degree may assist those wishing to work in Hawaii, the state lacks sufficient quality positions to accommodate all UH graduates. Former Education Secretary William Bennett asserted that from a return-on-investment perspective, only 150 of 3,500 U.S. colleges are worth the investment. Attending these 150 resulted in a positive ROI; patronizing other institutions resulted in a negative. UH ranked 785.

However, during M.R.C. Greenwood's years as president, in U.S. News & World Report's survey of 300 universities, the UH rank has improved to 156. UH must choose a leader who sustains this positive momentum.

When education costs are high and premium employment opportunities scarce, academic quality counts more than ever. Excellence can lead somewhere, but mediocrity will lead nowhere.

Dane Lee
Punchbowl

Fishermen confused about city parks rules

Since the homeless issue on the beaches has become more acute in recent years, fishermen, including many Native Hawaiians, have not been able to effectively use city parks to fish at night.

On the leeward coast, the city has stated that many miles of beaches from the high-water mark to the stone wall along Farrington Highway are considered parkland.