

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Committee
Hawaii - Puerto Rico Work Group
Meeting Summary
September 13, 2019
Conference Call**

**James Trotter, MD, Committee Chair
James Pomposelli, MD, Committee Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee's Hawaii and Puerto Rico Work Group (the Work Group) met via teleconference on 09/13/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Data report on access by DSA
2. Discuss large circle option

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Data report on access by DSA

The Work Group has been evaluating whether there is a disadvantage unique to the most urgent candidates in Hawaii and Puerto Rico as a result of their exceptionally isolated locations. The Work Group reviewed data on how many donors of each blood type are available on average within a one week period within 500 nautical miles of each transplant center.

Summary of discussion:

The data presented showed the number of deceased liver donors at donor hospitals within 500 nautical miles of each liver transplant center, on average per week during May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019, by donor blood type. There was less than one donor of each blood type on average within a week for Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The Work Group suggested presenting the data grouped by region so that it is easier to see the difference between Hawaii and Puerto Rico and their respective regions.

Next steps:

The full spreadsheet with the data reviewed will be circulated to Work Group members, and the project will be moved forward to solicit Policy Oversight and Executive Committee project approval.

2. Discussion of large circle option

The Work group reviewed a suggesting for using a larger circle that only applies to Hawaii or Puerto Rico to grant additional access to donors at a further distance for these programs. The concept would create an additional classification that would only show Hawaii or Puerto Rico candidates right after 500 nautical mile classifications for 1A, 1B and potentially MELD/PELD of 37.

Summary of discussion:

This was discussed as an alternative to a previously discussed concept of creating virtual locations at the Seattle/Tacoma and Miami International airports. The Work Group expressed concerns about whether there would be support within Region 5 to prioritize candidates in Hawaii. The Work Group also expressed concern about breaking up working relationships that are currently performing well.

The Work Group continued to discuss whether it would be preferred to have the alternative distribution pattern work in both directions – the candidates in Hawaii would have additional access to donors either in the larger circle or the circle based on the airport location, and the candidates in that same circle would also have additional access to the donors in Hawaii. The same would apply for Puerto Rico. The Work Group members were concerned that this would be required to build sufficient support for this type of change. However, the numbers of candidates in Hawaii or Puerto Rico that this would apply to is small.

The Work Group also discussed the need to determine the role of regional relationships and administration now that distribution is no longer going to be regional.

Next steps:

The Work Group will present to the full Committee at the in-person meeting. The Work Group will present both the option of the larger circle and the option of the virtual locations at airports to the full committee. The Work Group will also present a recommendation for only applying the alternative allocation in a single direction, and will present options for just applying to Status 1A and 1B candidates or also including MELD/PELD of 37 and higher.