

LATE

March of Dimes Foundation

Hawaii Chapter  
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[marchofdimes.com/Hawaii](http://marchofdimes.com/Hawaii)

To: Honorable Ryan Yamane  
Honorable Scott Nishimoto

From: Lin Joseph  
Director of Program Services  
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

Re: In strong support of  
**HCR 215**

3 copies

Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2009, 9:00am  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for HCR215, *Requesting the Department of Health to Review and Assess the Policies and Procedures Implemented by Hospitals to Reduce Elective Cesarean Sections and Induction of Labor.*

For 70 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in improving the health of women of child bearing age, infants, and children. Our mission is to *improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.* As the leading cause of neonatal mortality and a major contributor to child morbidity, prematurity has been a major focus of March of Dimes programs in research, education, community service and advocacy. More intensive research is clearly needed to identify the causes of prematurity and develop effective interventions to prevent preterm birth.

Although prematurity is defined as prior to 37 completed weeks gestation, babies born before 39 weeks gestation can not be considered full term. Late preterm infants have more needs than full term infants, including, feeding difficulties, body temperature instability, and possible neurodevelopmental and breathing problems.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that late preterm (34-36 weeks) and early term (37-38 weeks) births have risen sharply between 1996 and 2006, and that 30% of singletons born between 34 and 39 weeks were delivered by cesarean section. In Hawaii, 25.6% of all babies born were delivered by c-section.

In November 2008, March of Dimes issued a report card to each state and the nation as a whole on their preterm birth rates in comparison to the *Healthy People 2010* objective of 7.6% of births. The nation got a "D" and Hawaii, with a prematurity rate of 12.2% in 2005 also got a "D". In addition to the grades, March of Dimes issued a call to action to assess c-sections and inductions of labor to ensure consistency with the recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

March of Dimes encourages the members of the Committee on Health to join us in helping to improve the health of all babies.

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nishimoto2-Bryce

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**From:** Summer-Lee K Faria [sfaria@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2009 4:19 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HR 185 & HCR-215

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HR 185, HCR-215

The World Health Organization recommends a no more than 15% cesarean rate, the percentage is more than 30% nationally. Hawai`i is 26% as of 2006

The government and the public need to know what our hospitals are doing to lower these crazy numbers.

This bill needs to go through, for our government to SAVE money and for ALL our babies to be born healthy

Mahalo,

*Summer-Lee Faria  
Hawai`i Sales Representative  
Moby Wrap Inc.  
(808) 387-1098*

*As seen in Preemie magazine, Mothering magazine, Alternative medicine, People, US weekly, Life and Style, Celebrity Living & more!*