



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## House Committee on Health

### H.C.R. 0215, 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

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

March 27, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) must respectfully oppose this measure as it  
2 does not provide resources necessary to fulfill the goals of the resolution within the requested timeframe.  
3 We appreciate the intent of this bill and would like to work with stakeholders in an effort to address  
4 some of these issues.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** We estimate such a study would cost approximately \$25,000.

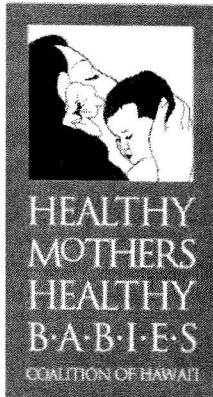
6 **Purpose and Justification:** HCR 215 requests that the DOH review and assess the policies and  
7 procedures implemented by hospitals to reduce elective cesarean sections and induction of labor,  
8 provide recommendations to improve Hawai'i's rate of premature births, and report back to the  
9 Legislature prior to the convening of the 2010 Legislative Session. It stipulates that the report include:

- 10 (1) Statistics on the number of hospitals having policies and procedures relating to elective cesarean  
11 sections and inductions of labor prior to thirty-nine (39) completed weeks of gestation.  
12 (2) Statistics on the number of hospitals with policies and procedures in line with the American  
13 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines; and

1 (3) Recommendations, including suggested legislation, on improving Hawai'i's rate for  
2 premature births.

3 The DOH utilizes data sources such as the Hawai'i Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System  
4 (PRAMS), which surveys women that recently delivered an infant; birth certificates; and hospital  
5 discharge records to continually monitor the rates for cesarean births, induction of labor, and other  
6 related birthing issues. In summary, the Department wishes to work closely with the key stakeholders,  
7 including March of Dimes, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and other partners to collaboratively  
8 work on the issues involved with this resolution without adding costs to the Department.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 11, 2009

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health  
FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director  
RE: HCR 215 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  
Hearing: Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am

My name is Jackie Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. We are in strong support of this resolution. Birth by cesarean delivery has risen from 18% of all births to 26% of all births in seven (7) years (between 1999 and 2006). Premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death and one (1) out of eight (8) babies born in Hawaii are late pre-term birth, with only thirty-four to thirty-six completed weeks of gestation.

Preterm birth also results in higher medical costs; the average cost of medical care in the first year of life for those that survive is ten times greater than for those that are born full term.

This would allow us to review the criteria used by hospitals and physicians for indications to elective inductions or cesarean section, as well as the policies and procedures established by hospitals to reduce this practice.

Mahalo for your consideration of this issue and our testimony.