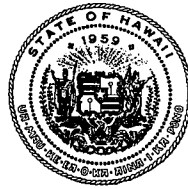


SB2382

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees Health and Human Services

S.B. 2382, Relating to Premature Infant Health Care

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

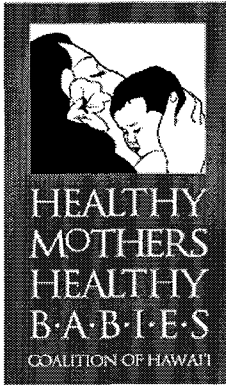
February 1, 2010

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health must oppose this bill. It is not the function of
2 government, this would be more appropriate within the private sector.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** If government were responsible for this function we would not be able to address
4 this due to fiscal implications.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Require that the Department of Health develop a plan to improve hospital
6 discharge and follow-up care procedures for premature infants born earlier than 37 weeks gestational
7 age to ensure standardized and coordinated processes are followed as premature infants leave the
8 hospital. The Department is more than willing to share data and expert consultation regarding premature
9 infant care with our private sector partners.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



January 28, 2010

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Members, Committee On Health

Senator Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

RE: **SB 2382 Relating to Premature Infant Health Care**

Hearing: Monday, February 1, 2010 at 2:45pm

Honorable Chairperson Ige, Vice Chairperson Green and Members of the Committee on Health
Honorable Chairperson Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in support of SB 2382 Relating To Premature Infant Health Care.**

We know that premature infants run the risk of various health issues such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss. And, premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death, accounting for twenty-four percent of infant deaths in the first month of life. One out of every eight babies born in Hawaii last year was born prematurely. This bill requires a coordinated effort on the part of the Department of Health to ensure standardized follow up process for premature infants born earlier than 37 weeks. Standardized, quality follow up care will reduce the risks of prematurely.

We urge your support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

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