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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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. No. 165, URGING ALCOHOL RETAILERS AND LICENSED PREMISES
UNDER CHAPTER 281, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO POST A SIGN IN
OR ABOUT THE PREMISES WARNING WOMEN NOT TO DRINK ALCOHOL
BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY.**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

April 2, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports this resolution urging alcohol retailers and premises
2 licensed under Chapter 281, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to voluntarily post a sign in or about the premises
3 that women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** No fiscal implications.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder ("FASD") is the umbrella term used to
6 describe a range of disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. These disorders include fetal alcohol
7 syndrome, alcohol-related neuron-developmental disorder, and fetal alcohol effects or alcohol-related
8 birth defects disorder. Alcohol exposure during pregnancy produces, by far, the most serious
9 neurobehavioral effects in the fetus (Institute of Medicine Report to Congress, 1995). The affects of
10 alcohol on the fetus varies depending on the amount and frequency of alcohol used during pregnancy
11 and at different stages of fetus development—the outcomes are unpredictable and can lead to serious
12 birth defects and life-long disabilities. There is no known safe amount of alcohol or safe time to drink
13 alcohol during pregnancy.

1 Because FASD affects all aspects of a child's life throughout his/her lifetime (cognitive,
2 social/emotional, physical/mental health, school/work activities, independent living, justice system, etc.)
3 and requires support in all areas, the costs can be staggering. According to the Substance Abuse and
4 Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), it costs the nation nearly \$60 billion a year to cover
5 FASD care. The care for one FASD child over his/her lifetime can rise to as much as \$2 million. These
6 costs of care are only in dollar amounts and do not consider other personal and emotional challenges
7 parents face when raising a child with FASD.

8 FASD is preventable. Prevention starts with awareness that links drinking alcohol during
9 pregnancy with the high risks of having a child with life-long disabilities.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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March 30, 2012

March of Dimes Foundation

To: Honorable Ryan Yamane
Honorable Dee Morikawa

Hawaii Chapter
1451 S. King Street, Suite 504
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Telephone (808) 973-2155
Fax (808) 973-2160

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

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marchofdimes.com/Hawaii

Re: In strong support of
HCR 165
Hearing: Monday, April 2, 2012 10:30am
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

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

I am writing to express support for HCR 165, *which would urge alcohol retailers and licensed premises to post signs warning women not to drink alcoholic beverages and urge the Department of Health to continue efforts to provide training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders prevention, identification, and interventions.*

For over 70 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in maternal and child health. Our mission is to *improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, and children. by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.* March of Dimes has long been involved with the issue of alcohol related birth defects and March of Dimes researchers were the first to describe the link between prenatal alcohol consumption and birth defects.

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) refer to a group of conditions resulting from exposure to alcohol in utero. These conditions include physical and intellectual disabilities, as well as problems with behavior and learning. FASDs are a leading cause of intellectual disability and birth defects. Each year, thousands of babies are born with health problems related to alcohol use during pregnancy. The most serious of these defects is known as fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). FAS is characterized by stunted growth (before and after birth), facial abnormalities, and central nervous system defects that result in intellectual and behavioral problems. FAS affects an estimated one out of every 750 newborns. Alcohol use also increases the risk of miscarriage and stillbirth. No completely safe level of alcohol use during pregnancy has been established.

Since 1989, federal law has required warning labels on all wine, beer, and liquor containers. To prevent alcohol-related birth defects, the warnings read: "Government Warning: According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects." More than 20 states now require point of sale warning signs – posted in liquor stores, restaurants, and bars – warning of the dangers of alcohol use during pregnancy.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are 100% preventable. Warning signs will help everyone be aware of the risks of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

.....
 march of dimes®

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 8:23 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: melford_lazarte@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR165 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

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Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR165

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melford Lazarte
Organization: Individual
E-mail: melford_lazarte@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

This is in support of HCR165. As a nurse, I see the personal effects of an alcoholic mother bringing another life to existence. This situation is very heartbreaking to those involved in the plan of care for both the mother and the baby. In fact, this situation is difficult in any level, whether personal or professional, to take care of an alcoholic pregnant mother, knowing that the effects of such behavior could be detrimental to the overall health status of the baby. This unselfish act of drinking while pregnant should be obliterated; and any measure to halt such act I am very much in support of. Better yet, the label imposed by such bill should not only be placed around the premise of any retail store, but should be stamped on each alcoholic beverage.