



**WRITTEN
ONLY**

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on on Health

**SB 598, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
ADEQUATE NEONATAL RESUSCITATION TRAINING PROGRAMS**

**Testimony of Loretta Fuddy, ACSW, MPH
Acting Director of Health**

Friday, January 28, 2011

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports SB 598.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds for the development of neonatal resuscitation training
3 programs.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** We support the intent but defer on the fiscal implications until the
5 Executive Budget has been finalized.

6 The ability to properly perform resuscitation on a newborn baby, when needed, is
7 paramount to their survival and positive outcome. Maui Memorial Medical Center and Kona
8 Community Hospital are active participants of the Hawaii Collaborative Initiative (HI-CHI); a
9 non-profit organization formed on the island of Hawai'i in 2009 by healthcare professionals. HI-
10 CHI was formed to address the absence of a formal, organized neonatal and newborn
11 resuscitation training program.

12 The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) State Partnership Grant, under
13 the direction of the DOH Emergency Medical Services Injury Prevention Systems Branch has
14 provided funding to the HI-CHI to cover trainer transportation costs, supplies, and is currently in

1 the process of purchasing simulation equipment for the program.. The HI-CHI has additionally
2 expanded their training program to include the skills needed to stabilize newborn babies.

3 The HI-CHI has identified a crucial step in the training process, is providing a clinical
4 rotation through Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, allowing trainees to
5 perform their skills with real patients under direct supervision. Funding is needed to continue to
6 support the necessary costs associated with the development and implementation of this
7 statewide neonatal resuscitation program.

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

To: Honorable Josh Green
Honorable Clarence Nishihara

Hawaii Chapter
1451 King Street, Suite 504
Honolulu, HI 96814
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From: Lin Joseph
Director of Program Services
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

marchofdimes.com/hawaii

Re: In strong support of
SB598

Hearing: Friday January 28, 2011
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for SB598: *Makes an appropriation for the development of neonatal resuscitation training programs.*

It is estimated that approximately 10% of all deliveries require intervention by an individual or team skilled in neonatal resuscitation. Perinatal asphyxia and extreme prematurity are the two complications of pregnancy that most frequently require a complex resuscitation by skilled personnel. Only 60% of asphyxiated newborns can be predicted before birth. The remaining newborns are not identified until the time of delivery. Nearly half of newborn deaths occur during the first 24 hours following birth, and many of these early deaths have a component of asphyxia and/or respiratory depression (medscape.com, November 2010).

Infants born on Neighbor Islands who require intensive care are transported by Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children's highly skilled Transport Team comprised a physician, nurse and respiratory therapist. However, response time by the Transport Team is hampered by the need to fly to a neighboring island, making neonatal resuscitation skills essential for all hospitals providing delivery of newborns.

For more than 70 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in improving the health of women of child bearing age, infants, and children. The Foundation spearheaded the development of America's regional system of neonatal intensive care units (NICU). Until every hospital in Hawaii has a NICU to support babies born too soon or very sick, it is imperative that they are provided the resuscitation and support they need to get to one.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to *improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.* We encourage the Committee on Health to approve this bill.

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