

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
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COMMISSIONERS:

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January 23, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the
Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, HB 2033, Relating to Jury Duty

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2033, which would allow breastfeeding mothers the opportunity and choice to be exempted from jury duty for one year. For many mothers, breastfeeding can be difficult to begin and hard to maintain. For working mothers, the difficulty is even more pronounced. The ability to find time and a location to use a breastpump is not easy during the work day. We should support breastfeeding mothers in whatever way we can, through policies, practices and legislation.

In Hawaii, only one in five children receives the absolute minimum of six months breastfeeding as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months, with continued breastfeeding to two years of age in order to reduce risk of infectious diseases, asthma, allergies, certain childhood cancers, obesity and diabetes. The health benefits from breastfeeding are numerous.

Women should not have to choose between continued breastfeeding and a civic obligation to report to jury duty. Allowing a one year exemption from jury duty, from the time a woman begins breastfeeding her child, makes sense for women and their children. Twelve states in the United States in addition to Puerto Rico have all passed laws exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty. We urge this Committee to pass HB 2033 as a sound public health policy for women and children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Health
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, January 24, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.B. 2033

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee on Health,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of H.B. 2033, which seeks to exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii is dedicated to providing Hawaii's people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy.

Breastfeeding is beneficial for both infants and mothers. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health, breastfeeding can improve an infant's immune system and protect the infant from germs and illness, such as ear infections, stomach viruses, asthma, obesity, types 1 and 2 diabetes, childhood leukemia, and some respiratory infections.¹ Mothers also benefit from breastfeeding, as it may operate as a natural birth control, lowers the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, and reduces post-partum depression.²

Jury duty is burdensome to breastfeeding mothers, who may have to spend hours or days serving on a jury. The major difficulties may include the lack of access to a clean, private space to express breast milk, lack of access to electric outlets needed to operate a breast pump and the inability to take regular and long enough breaks to express breast milk. Granting an exemption is an easy, no cost option that allows breastfeeding mothers to take on the important civic responsibility of jury duty at a later time while giving them and their babies the opportunity to reap the benefits of breastfeeding.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health, *Breastfeeding Fact Sheet* (2013) , available at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/breastfeeding.html>.

² *Id.*

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357 Rice Street, Suite 101
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KONA
Hualalai Medical Center
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Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI
Kahului Office Center
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
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To Representative Della Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of Health Committee

From Janel Takasaki, RN, BSN, IBCLC
President, Breastfeeding Hawaii
State Breastfeeding Coalition

RE: **HB 2033 Relating to Jury Duty**

Date and Time: Friday, January 24, 2014 9 am Room 329

On behalf of Breastfeeding Hawaii, I would like to express my support of **HB 2033 Jury Duty** for Breastfeeding Women, exempting them from jury duty during the time they are breastfeeding or expressing milk for their child.

Breastfeeding Hawaii is a non profit 501 © 3 organization representing Hawaii locally and nationally at the National US Breastfeeding Committee in Washington, D.C. Our mission is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the State of Hawaii. We do this through the organization of community efforts, outreach, policy change, education, legislation and advocacy.

Only one in five children in Hawaii receives the absolute minimum of six months exclusive breastfeeding, and fewer than one in three are receiving any breast milk at twelve months as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization to reduce risk of obesity, diabetes, infectious disease, asthma, allergies and certain childhood cancers. Women who breastfeed their children benefit too, with lower rates of breast and ovarian cancers, metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. Society benefits with lower health insurance costs and higher worker productivity.

Mother-child separation presents a serious challenge to continuing breastfeeding. It costs nothing to exempt a breastfeeding woman from jury duty, and can make a big difference in further preserving the breastfeeding

relationship. A woman should never have to worry about how she is going to feed her baby or pump her milk, while required to sit in a courtroom jury box or be sequestered in jury deliberations. Presently there are no accommodations available in the Court House for breastfeeding women who are on juries.

In the United States, twelve states-California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon and Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have laws that exempt breastfeeding women from jury duty.

Breastfeeding Hawaii believes in supporting breastfeeding women to continue to breastfeed and/or provide breastmilk for their infant. We realize a mother may chose to perform her civic responsibility but if she cannot due the need to be with her infant to breastfeed or provide milk for the baby, she needs to be provided this exemption. Also, we suggest that documentation of a woman breastfeeding could easily be verified from the Pediatrician or other health care provider caring for the infant.

We also respectfully suggest the following amendment to this bill by changing the wording of Section 2, SS 612-6 Exempt When

“9) a mother who is breastfeeding a child or expressing breast milk ; and provided further that a mother may be exempt under this section for each child the mother breastfeeds. “

Accordingly, we encourage this Committee to favorably pass this bill, with the wording changes of Section 2, SS 612-6 , 9) noted above.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our viewpoint on this issue.

Janel Takasaki, RN, BSN, IBCLC
President
Breastfeeding Hawaii
State Breastfeeding Coalition

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 12:24 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2033 on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM*

HB2033

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 9:08 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kstofocik@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2033 on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM

HB2033

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Stofocik	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 2033 to assist breastfeeding mothers to continue to breastfeed their child without interruption due to Jury Duty for one year. This does not cost taxpayers anything and is common sense legislation.

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 5:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2033 on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM*

HB2033

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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