



LATE

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

H.B. 398 H.D. 1, Relating to Human Services

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

February 20, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this bill and defers to the
2 Department of Human Services (DHS).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department of Health

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill would require child care facilities, that care for children one year
5 of age or younger, to implement safe sleep policies. Sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID) and
6 sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) are preventable through safe sleep practices. One in five infant
7 deaths related to an unsafe sleep environment occurred while an infant was being cared for by someone
8 other than a parent. Research has shown that many child care providers are unaware of the association
9 between unsafe sleep environments and SUIDS/SIDS and were misinformed about risks and benefits of
10 safe sleep practices. Training on safe sleep practice is needed because over two thirds of US infants
11 receive care from non-parental childcare providers. It is important that we continue efforts to promote
12 safe sleep education and keep infants free from preventable injury and premature death. We respectfully
13 defer to the DHS who regulates child care providers.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 4:31 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: glennsakai@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB398 on Feb 20, 2013 15:00PM



HB398

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 20, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Sakai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a layperson on the workings of our democratic government, I find it difficult to comprehend the reasons for the proposed amendments which would defeat the purpose of the “safe sleep” bill. As I understand the bill, it would require child care centers that care for children less than one year of age to develop, maintain, and implement safe sleep policies as adopted by the Department of Human Services, to prevent sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome. However, my understanding is that the proposed amendments would remove specific proposals of a large portion of the bill that would require the DHS to implement policies that would require that infants to be put on their backs to sleep, provide training to the caregivers, etc. Could the reasons for the amendments be one of economics and costs? Is there a dollar value to the life of an infant? Would just one child be saved if the proposals of the “safe sleep” bill be administered successfully? I firmly believe it would and I strongly support the bill without any amendments that would defer the safety of our keiki. Thank you once again for this opportunity to express my heartfelt testimony as a father, grandfather and citizen of this great state of Hawaii.

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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