



**LATE**

To Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Members of Committee on Finance

From Debrah Trankel, RNC, CLC, IBCLC  
President, Breastfeeding Hawaii  
State Breastfeeding Coalition

RE: HB 410 **Relating to Jury Duty**

Date and Time: Thursday, February 21, 2013

On behalf of Breastfeeding Hawaii, I would like to express my support of **HB 410 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 not for profit State organization. We represent Hawaii locally and 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, thereby keeping the woman and her infant healthy. 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.

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 responsibly 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.

Accordingly, we encourage this Committee to favorably pass on this bill, exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty toward final legislation.

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

Debrah Trankel, RNC, BSN, CLC, IBCLC  
President, Breastfeeding Hawaii  
State Breastfeeding Coalition

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To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice-Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Finance

From Sylvia R. Pager, MD, MS, FAAP, FABM, IBCLC.  
AAP Hawaii Chapter Breastfeeding Coordinator.  
Pediatrician, Breastfeeding Medicine

Re: HB 410 **Relating to Jury Duty and Breastfeeding – IN SUPPORT**

Date and Time: Thursday, February 21, 2013, 1.30pm

Numerous obstacles in our society conspire to hinder mothers from achieving their breastfeeding goals. Separation of a mother from her infant is one of these. Jury duty is one cause of separation.

Breastfeeding alone for the first six months of an infant's life is considered the optimal beginning. Less than 20% of our Hawaii infants are so fed.  
And fewer than one in three are receiving any breast milk at twelve months.

With the reduction of obesity, as well as many other diseases in both the infants and their mothers, the significant reduction in healthcare costs provide benefits to society as a whole, and the awareness of the importance of breastfeeding then grows, empowering subsequent generations of women to be successful.

A breastfeeding woman needs such consideration for a relatively brief period in her life, so minimally reducing the size of the jury pool. Deferment of jury duty during the time a woman is breastfeeding, allowing representation of this important demographic at a later time, would satisfy all our needs.

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 already have laws exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty.

I encourage you all to enable Hawaii to join this list.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sylvia Pager.