



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 984 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Friday, February 14, 2013; 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 984 is to require child care facilities, including infant and toddler child care centers that care for children one year of age or younger, to develop, maintain, and implement safe sleep policies to prevent sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) acknowledges the efforts of the Legislature to seek measures to prevent the tragic deaths associated with sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome. However, the Department prefers H.B. 398, H.D.1 version which proposes that child care facilities licensed by the DHS shall develop, maintain, and implement a written safe sleep policy in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

The Department opposes legislating specific program requirements for regulated child care providers and prefers to address such requirements through administrative rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Human Services

H.B. 984, Relating to Human Services

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

February 14, 2013

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates 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.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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H.B. 984, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES
House Committee on Human Services
February 14, 2013, 9:30 a.m.
Room 329

My name is Cora Speck, Injury Prevention Coordinator at The Queen's Medical Center. I am also a committee member representing Queen's at Safe Sleep Hawaii and the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of H.B. 984, Relating to Human Services.

Suffocation has been the leading cause of fatal injuries among healthy keiki under the age of 1. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends all infants under the age of 1 to sleep on their backs, in a safe sleeping environment. **Hawaii is one of just seven states in the U.S. that does not regulate sleep positions in child care centers or family child care homes.** In the National Trauma Data Base, suffocation deaths (such as infant sleep-related deaths) are counted as injuries. As Hawaii's only Level II Trauma Center, Queen's has a clear interest in supporting legislation that would increase awareness of infant sleep-related deaths, and ultimately save lives.

This measure will help ensure all Hawaii's Caregivers are up-to-date in their knowledge, and that the infants in child care facilities will sleep in accordance with AAP's Best Practices. I strongly urge you to pass H.B. 984 from this committee.

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From: Michelle Rho
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To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services
February 14, 2013 – 9:30am
Conference Room 329

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 984
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee,

My name is Michelle Rho, a committee member of Safe Sleep Hawaii, and a staff member of Child & Family Service in the Parent Line and HomeReach Program funded by the Department of Health. Parent Line and HomeReach is a statewide program open to all of Hawaii's residents. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of HB 984, Relating to Human Services.

Suffocation has been the leading cause of fatal injuries among healthy Hawaii keikis under the age of 1. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all infants under the age of 1 to sleep on their backs, in a safe sleeping environment. Although sleep related deaths are preventable, there is no formal policy that is in place to ensure that our young keikis are in a safe sleeping environment, positioned on their backs. **Hawaii is ONE of SEVEN states in the United States that does not regulate sleep positions in child care centers or family child care homes.**

By passing this measure, it will help prevent the occurrence of infants dying due to unsafe sleeping environments/positions. We strongly recommend you pass this measure. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to express my support for HB 984.

Aloha,

Michelle Rho

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Nancy Kern. I currently work for the Department of Health, in the Injury Prevention and Control Section, as the Suicide Prevention Coordinator. I am providing this testimony, however, as a private citizen.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of HB 984, Relating to Human Services.

I had a twin daughter, Colleen Kern, who died at the age of 4 months from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in 1977. The sadness and despair experienced by my husband and myself from this loss was unimaginable.

Following Colleen's death, I worked for many years on efforts related to preventing SIDS in Hawaii, serving as president of the Hawaii SIDS Foundation for several years. One of our priorities was to educate the public on the significance of placing babies to sleep on their backs.

From my personal perspective, HB 984 should be passed, as research demonstrates that back-sleeping decreases the rate of SIDS deaths, and - therefore - would lessen the tragedy that afflicts families in Hawaii when they experience the death of their infant due to SIDS.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that Hawaii's infants in child care facilities are placed down to sleep in a safe environment. This is a relatively small step to take for such a significant result: a safer environment for all babies who are cared for at child care centers statewide.

Thank you for seriously considering the passage of this bill and for caring for the health and well-being for our infants.

With aloha,

Nancy Kern

