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HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

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Friday, March 1, 2013 – 9:00 am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

Re: **HCR 19 Urging Hospitals Within The State Of Hawaii To Increase The Rates
Of Exclusive Breastfeeding At Hospital Discharge
Testimony in Strong Support**

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff,

I am writing in strong support of HCR 19, Urging Hospitals Within The State Of Hawaii To Increase The Rates Of Exclusive Breastfeeding At Hospital Discharge.

Studies have shown that breastfeeding for 9 months reduces a child's risk of becoming overweight by more than 30 percent. Childhood obesity is on the rise, and breastfeeding has proven to be an important factor in reducing childhood obesity. It is recommended that most babies be fed only breast milk for the first 6 months of life and continue breastfeeding for at least 12 months thereafter. Suboptimal breastfeeding in the United States results in an estimated \$2.2 billion annually in additional direct medical costs.

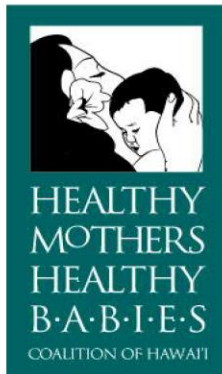
Due to the important health, psychological, environmental and economic benefits, breastfeeding has been recommended by many prominent organizations. Among those are the Centers for Disease control, World Health Organization, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to name a few. At HPH our hospitals encourage breastfeeding because of the known health benefits for infants.

This measure thus provides a vital first step toward lessening the problem of childhood obesity and the resulting health problems. We ask that this Committee pass the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health



February 21, 2013

TO: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair; Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair; and Members of the House Committee on Health
FROM: Lisa Kimura, Executive Director, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
RE: Testimony in Support of HCR 19 Relating to Hospitals Increasing the Rates of Exclusive Breastfeeding at Hospital Discharge
HEARING: Friday, March 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii is testifying today in support of HCR 19, relating to a law urging hospitals within Hawaii to increase the rates of exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge, a healthy practice as early as possible in life that is associated with optimal childhood development.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and World Health Organization (WHO) recommend exclusive breastfeeding through six months of age. However, **in Hawaii, only 21 percent of babies are breastfed exclusively through the recommended 6 months.**

Recent research shows that if 90 percent of U.S. families breastfed exclusively for 6 months, nearly 1,000 infant deaths could be prevented. The U.S. would also save \$13 billion per year — medical care costs are lower for fully breastfed infants than never-breastfed infants. **Breastfed infants typically need fewer sick care visits, prescriptions, and hospitalizations. Breastfeeding also contributes to a more productive workforce** since mothers miss less work to care for sick infants and **employer medical costs are also lower.**

Public health benefits for both mothers and babies cannot be understated. Research shows that **breastfeeding can reduce the risk of Type 1 diabetes, asthma, childhood leukemia, atopic dermatitis, SIDS, and helps protect against childhood obesity;** a baby's risk of becoming an overweight child goes down with each month of breastfeeding. As for mothers, **breastfeeding is linked to a lower risk of Type 2 diabetes, breast and ovarian cancer, and postpartum depression.**

There is no greater public health and economic benefit to families and society, than breastfeeding. Please help us ensure more mothers and babies are equipped with the best possible chance for success from the start.

Thank you for opportunity to testify.

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morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 10:42 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wtchd@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR19 on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM

HCR19

Submitted on: 2/26/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Collins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The research is correct.

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 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:26 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR19 on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM*

HCR19

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	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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