



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

### HCR19, URGING HOSPITALS WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII TO INCREASE THE RATES OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

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

March 1, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 19 is to urge all hospitals in  
4 the State of Hawaii to increase the overall rates of exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge by  
5 developing and implementing breastfeeding policy that supports exclusive breastfeeding and by  
6 providing continuous staff training on the implementation of the policy.

7 The Department supports this bill as a part of the comprehensive package of legislation developed  
8 by the Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force. The Task Force was created on July 6, 2012 as Senate  
9 Bill 2778 and signed into law as Act 269 by Governor Abercrombie to address the growing crisis of  
10 childhood obesity in Hawaii. The task force identified twelve policy recommendations that when  
11 implemented together, have the potential to reshape the environments in Hawaii where people live,  
12 work, play, and learn. HCR19 is one of the twelve recommended policies from the Task Force.

13 Current medical recommendations call for exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life  
14 and continued breastfeeding for at least the next six months, during which time appropriate

1 complementary foods are added to the infant’s diet. Both the duration and the exclusivity of  
2 breastfeeding are important. Exclusive breastfeeding appears to have an even stronger effect against  
3 obesity than breastfeeding combined with formula feeding. Breastfeeding provides many benefits  
4 including protecting infants and children from a host of significant acute and chronic diseases; reducing  
5 the risk of obesity throughout the life span; and for women who breastfeed a reduced risk of breast  
6 cancer, ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, postpartum depression, and cardiovascular disease. Suboptimal  
7 breastfeeding in the United States results in an estimated \$2.2 billion annually in additional direct  
8 medical costs.

9         Some hospital practices and policies in maternity settings may unintentionally undermine  
10 maternal and infant health with barriers for mothers to breastfeed. Evidence-based policies and  
11 practices to support breastfeeding are available for maternity care programs to adopt. The Department  
12 of Health, has been working with Hawaii hospitals on maternity care practices that support breastfeeding  
13 and best practices through the “10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding,” which include steps on creating  
14 breastfeeding policies and providing continuous staff training. The project has conducted staff trainings,  
15 meetings, workshops, and provided technical assistance for maternity care facilities statewide to  
16 improve infant feeding practices and exclusive breastfeeding rates at hospital discharge. The passage of  
17 HCR19 will help to support the work being done by the Department by encouraging hospitals to move  
18 towards implementation of best practices that support breastfeeding.

19         The Department supports passage of HCR19 as a method to increase the rates of exclusive  
20 breastfeeding at hospital discharge. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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**HCR 19**  
**URGING HOSPITALS WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII TO INCREASE THE RATES OF  
EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE**  
House Committee on Health

March 1, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Room 329

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HCR 19**, which urges the hospitals within the State of Hawai‘i to increase the rates of exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge.

OHA’s strategic priorities include Maui Ola (Health), which represents our commitment to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and quality of life by reducing the onset of chronic diseases.

Studies have shown that there are many health benefits to breastfeeding, which include reducing the risk of chronic diseases for the infant and mother. More specifically, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Office of Women’s Health (OWH) indicates that breast milk reduces the risks of chronic diseases in infants by lowering the risks for respiratory infections, diabetes, obesity, and childhood leukemia. Additionally, lactating mothers reduce their risk for diabetes, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and postpartum depression.

We support any improvement to the status quo that will urge hospitals to provide families with the information and tools they need to make important health decisions that affect their families. OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HCR 19. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 5:25 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** thirr33@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR19 on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM

**HCR19**

Submitted on: 2/28/2013

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	The Mestizo Association	Support	No

Comments: Chair, HLT Committee Honorable Members The Mestizo Association & I Love Kalihi Valley support HCR 19. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit written testimony. Me Ke Aloha Pumehana, Arvid T. Youngquist Founder & Editor Feb. 28, 2013

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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## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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**H.C.R. 19 Urging Hospitals within the State of Hawaii to  
Increase the Rates of Exclusive Breastfeeding at Hospital Discharge  
House Committee on Health  
March 3, 2013  
Room 329**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of H.C.R. 19. My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, Trauma, ED and Chief Nursing Officer with The Queen's Medical Center (QMC). This measure urges hospitals throughout the State to work towards improved utilization of exclusive breastfeeding at discharge, maintain policies that ensure exclusive breastfeeding, and provide ongoing related training to staff in an effort to address childhood obesity.

We appreciate the efforts of The Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force and their work in the development of this concurrent resolution to promote increased rates of exclusive and continued breastfeeding towards improved child health and lower rates of obesity.

The Queen's Medical Center is committed to and promotes exclusive breastfeeding. QMC maintains five international board certified lactation consultants (IBCLC) and ten certified lactation counselors (CLC) on staff. Our lactations consultants and counselors are strongly supported in their certification and maintenance of certification. All patients received a lactation consultation within 24 hours of giving birth. QMC promotes skin to skin contact between mother and baby to allow for optimal bonding and exclusive breastfeeding promotion.

QMC implemented an internal breastfeeding committee, with multi-disciplinary representation. Our staff, including over 100 OB nurses, receive annual education and competency training on exclusive breastfeeding. AAP policies are being reviewed and considered for adoption. As a result of this commitment to exclusive breastfeeding, QMC currently maintains a 46% exclusive breastfeeding rate, with that rate anticipated to increase.