



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

March 25, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 400, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Monday, March 25, 2013; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 400, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, is to require child care facilities, family child care homes, group child care centers, group child care homes, and 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 in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Human Services.

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.

The DHS thanks the House Human Services Committee in addressing the Department's concerns in the S.D. 1, H.D. 1 of this bill and supports this bill as amended. The DHS believes that S.D. 1, H.D. 1 would allow for the DHS to accommodate any

changes to best practice and standards of care if these were in rules as opposed to statute. The body of knowledge related to sleep related deaths continues to grow as researchers continue to seek answers to sudden unexplained infant deaths.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

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From: Michelle Rho
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To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
March 25, 2013 – 3:00pm
Conference Room 325

RE: IN SUPPORT OF SB 400
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami 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 SB 400, 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 SB 400.

Aloha,

Michelle Rho

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

Hawaii Chapter

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marchofdimes.com/Hawaii

March 22, 2013

To: Honorable Angus McKelvey
Honorable Derek Kawakami

From: Lin Joseph
Director of Program Services
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

Re: In strong support of
SB400 SD1HD1

Hearing: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
March 25, 2013 3:00 pm
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express support for SB 400, *which would require child care providers to develop, maintain and implement safe sleep policies for infants.*

For over 70 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in maternal and child health. Our mission is to *improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.* March of Dimes is in the midst of a long-term Prematurity Campaign to increase public awareness of the problems of prematurity and to decrease the rate of premature birth worldwide

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death in babies between one month and one year old, and is most common among babies between two and four months old. Premature babies are at increased risk for SIDS. A study published in the January 2013 *Journal of Perinatology* found that extremely premature infants had a significantly higher risk of dying from SIDS than full term infants.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that one in five SIDS deaths occurs while an infant is in the care of someone other than a parent. Many of these deaths happen when babies who are accustomed to sleeping on their backs at home are placed on their tummies for sleep by another caregiver. At the March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, we provide families with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit the AAP's *Parent's Guide to Safe Sleep* that emphasizes "Tummy to Play and Back to Sleep." The guide also recommends that parents talk to their baby's caregivers about reducing the risk of SIDS through safe sleep.

Senate Bill 400 would ensure that all registered or licensed child care providers would have the policies in place to maintain safe sleep environments for infants in Hawaii. March of Dimes urges the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce to pass SB 400.