



**LATE**

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

**S.B. 400, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Human Services**

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

**March 25, 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) for implementation.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department of Health.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill would require child care facilities, that care for children less than  
5 one year of age, to implement and maintain safe sleep policies. Sudden unexpected infant deaths  
6 (SUID) and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) are preventable through safe sleep practices. One in  
7 five infant deaths related to an unsafe sleep environment occurred while an infant was being cared for by  
8 someone other than a parent. Research has shown that many child care providers are unaware of the  
9 association between unsafe sleep environments and SUIDS/SIDS and were misinformed about risks and  
10 benefits of safe sleep practices. Training on safe sleep practice is needed because over two-thirds of  
11 U.S. infants receive care from non-parental childcare providers. It is important that we continue efforts  
12 to promote safe sleep education and keep infants free from preventable injury and premature death. We  
13 respectfully defer to the DHS who regulates child care providers.
- 14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**LATE**

March 25, 2013 – 3:00pm  
House Conference Room 325

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 400**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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 SB 400.

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 main priorities was to educate the public on the significance of placing babies to sleep on their backs.

From my personal perspective, SB 400 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 all 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.

Aloha, Nancy Kern