

Testimony on SB 400, Senate Committee on Health

I am writing as a private citizen, Pediatrician, and Co-Chair of the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition to **SUPPORT** this measure.

Sleep related deaths in infancy are the leading cause of preventable child death in Hawaii, with about 20 infants who were otherwise healthy dying every year. The nomenclature and understanding of these deaths has evolved from the notion of SIDS as a mysterious condition, to further understanding that sleep position, suffocation and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke produce a high risk to infants during a vulnerable period in infancy that produces a condition that is lethal. The number of infants dying from sleep related deaths has not decreased significantly in the past 15 years.

A comprehensive approach to preventing sleep related deaths in infancy is needed. The Department of Human Service's policies are just one point of influence among many to address this problem. Child Death Reviews, as conducted by the Department of Health, should identify the proportion of sleep related deaths in infancy in Hawaii that might have been prevented by policies proposed in this measure, and also elucidate other strategies to reduce these unnecessary deaths.

I respectfully offer that the Department of Human Services may prefer that specifics of their required sleep policies for infants be in rules rather than statute, or the measure could refer to current recommendations for safe sleep from respected sources such as the American Academy of Pediatrics. This would assure that future refinements of recommendations can be easily incorporated. That said, a requirement to address safe sleep recommendations is appropriate as a statement of public policy.

This measure is a good step in codifying the Legislature's determination to reduce preventable infant deaths in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:39 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB400 on Jan 30, 2013 14:05PM

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SB400

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HMS/HTH on Jan 30, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Esteemed Senators, As a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, my worst days include the times I comfort and care for families who experience the loss of an infant. While many deaths of infants are not understood, the evidence and research is very clear that infant sleeping position directly impacts the risk of Sudden Infant Death. I urge you to move this bill forward with the strongest support. The keiki of the islands are worth every effort! Mahalo for your time and consideration of this important legislation for public safety. Teresa Parsons, APRN-BC

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Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee:

I am a mother of three children and I am in strong support of Infant Safe Sleep practices. It is important to me that this bill is passed as the safety of my children and the children of Hawai'i is necessary.

I believe it is necessary to implement a bill such as this as putting infants to sleep in a safe environment and on their backs will help prevent fatal injuries for our children in the future.

I appreciate your time and careful consideration. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of Infant Safe Sleep Hawai'i.

Aloha,

Sisia Kato