

LATE

SB532

Submitted on: 3/19/2013

Testimony for JUD on Mar 19, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Shimamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support strengthening workplace protections for breastfeeding mothers. Breastfeeding is the ultimate public health issue. Aside from the well-known benefits in infancy, it protects our children from many expensive chronic diseases in adulthood such as obesity, asthma, celiac disease, and diabetes, as well as serious health conditions including inflammatory bowel diseases, leukemia and breast cancer. Many of these benefits are not seen until breastfeeding has extended well beyond the typical Hawaii norm of 8 weeks or less of breastfeeding. This is why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a bare minimum of 1 year of breastfeeding (with complementary solid foods) and why the World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 2 years of breastfeeding. Extending workplace protections to ALL mothers, regardless of wage/salary type, will enable mothers to continue breastfeeding beyond their return to work, which is one of the top barriers to mothers' breastfeeding their infants the recommended minimum of time. Support our working mothers, public health, and the health of our children!

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