

SB2452

LATE

TESTIMONY

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU
CARMILLE LIM
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH
MARILYN LEE
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February 20, 2014

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 2452, Relating to Jury Duty

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2452, which would allow breastfeeding mothers the opportunity and choice to be exempted from jury duty for one year. For many mothers, breastfeeding can be difficult to begin and hard to maintain. For working mothers, the difficulty is even more pronounced. The ability to find time and a location to use a breastpump is not easy during the work day. However, all research shows a significant link between breastfeeding and better public health. We should support breastfeeding mothers in whatever way we can, through policies, practices and legislation.

In Hawaii, only one in five children receives the absolute minimum of six months breastfeeding as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months, with continued breastfeeding to two years of age in order to reduce risk of infectious diseases, asthma, allergies, certain childhood cancers, obesity and diabetes. The health benefits from breastfeeding are numerous.

Women should not have to choose between continued breastfeeding and a civic obligation to report to jury duty. Allowing a one year exemption from jury duty, from the time a woman begins breastfeeding her child, makes sense for women and their children. Twelve states in the United States in addition to Puerto Rico have all passed laws exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty. We urge this Committee to pass SB 2452 as a sound public health policy for women and children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2014
TIME: 10:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 016

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2033

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and committee members,

The Coalition is in support of this bill that is part of the Coalition's and the Women's Legislative Caucus Packages.

According to Breastfeeding Hawai'i, "Only one in five children in Hawaii receives the absolute minimum of six months exclusive breastfeeding, and fewer than one in three are receiving any breast milk at twelve months as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization to reduce risk of obesity, diabetes, infectious disease, asthma, allergies and certain childhood cancers.

"Women who breastfeed their children benefit too, with lower rates of breast and ovarian cancers, metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. Society benefits with lower health insurance costs and higher worker productivity."

This action seems to simply be logical since the task of providing for breastfeeding and/or infant care spaces in our courtrooms seems to elude us.

There is precedent in the United States. Twelve states - California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon and Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have laws that exempt breastfeeding woman from jury duty.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsfreed@gmail.com
Phone: 808-623-5676



healthy mothers
healthy babies

COALITION OF HAWAII

February 19, 2014

To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Lisa Kimura, Executive Director, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2452, Relating to Jury Duty Exemption for Breastfeeding Women
Hearing: February 20, 2014 at 10:30am

Thank you for hearing SB 2452. Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii strongly supports this bill, which would permit breastfeeding mothers to be exempted from jury duty.

The health benefits of breast milk for both infants and mothers have long been established and it is imperative from a public health perspective to promote and sustain breastfeeding. Breastfeeding helps improve an infant's immune system, preventing illness such as ear infections, stomach viruses, asthma, obesity, types 1 and 2 diabetes, childhood leukemia, and some respiratory infections. Mothers also benefit from breastfeeding, as it lowers the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, and reduces post-partum depression.

Mothers must pump milk consistently to maintain their supply and need a clean and safe space to express milk to avoid compromising their ability to breastfeed. Additionally, the importance of consistent, regular breaks to pump cannot be understated. Mothers who do not own, cannot afford to purchase, or whose insurance does not provide a breast pump will be unable to empty their breasts at the regular intervals required to sustain their milk supply. Additionally, new mothers require frequent breaks every couple of hours to pump, and a trial simply cannot be postponed to accommodate a mother's needs.

A jury duty exemption does not permanently exempt a woman from serving her civic duty, but instead, simply enables her to continue providing the very best for her child during a very critical point of its health and emotional development. It is a temporary pause, with every intention to allow her to continue to serve after this critical breastfeeding period.

Currently, fewer than 20% of mothers make it to the AAP and WHO-recommended exclusive six months of breastfeeding. Anything that we can do as a state to support our mothers, in turn, supports the healthy development of our children.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii believes in providing all women with the information and resources they need to raise healthy and strong families. Accordingly, we support SB 2452 and ask this Committee to pass it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Names: Maureen Shannon, CNM, FNP, FACNM, FAAN (Chair)
Annette Manant, CNM, MN (Secretary)
Roxanne Estes, CNM, MSN (Treasurer)

Title: Executive Board of the Hawai`i Affiliate of the American College of
Nurse-Midwives

Senate Committee: Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing Date/Time: February 20, 2014 at 10:30 AM

Measure: SB2452

Opinion: Strongly support

Testimony:

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Judiciary and Labor Committee Members:

The Executive Board and the members of the Hawai`i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA) strongly support passage of SB2452 because it will promote optimal, uninterrupted breastfeeding of infants by their mothers during the critical period of the first year of life. There is an abundance of scientific evidence that documents the immediate and long-term benefits of breastfeeding of infants for a minimum of 12 months after birth. In addition, scientific evidence also documents that mothers that breastfeed have lower rates of ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, breast cancer and metabolic syndrome. Therefore, preventing the interruption of successful breastfeeding by mothers during their infants' first year of life is critical. Requiring breastfeeding mothers to serve on juries during the first year of their infants' lives has the potential to cause cessation of breastfeeding entirely by these mothers resulting in the loss of immediate and long-term health benefits for the infants and mothers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Maureen Shannon, CNM, FNP, PhD, FACNM, FAAN
Contact Information: mtshannon@gmail.com
Annette Manant, CNM, MN
Roxanne Estes, CNM, MSN

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 2452

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of S.B. 2452, which seeks to exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty for up to one year from the time the mother began breastfeeding the child.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. PPHI supports S.B. 2452 because it will support breastfeeding mothers and, in turn, their sexual and reproductive health.

Breastfeeding has been proven to be beneficial for both infants and mothers. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health, breastfeeding may operate as a natural birth control, lower the risk of breast and ovarian cancer and type 2 diabetes, and reduce post-partum depression.¹ Further, breastfeeding can improve an infant’s immune system and protect the infant from germs and illness, such as ear infections, stomach viruses, asthma, obesity, types 1 and 2 diabetes, childhood leukemia, and some respiratory infections.²

Jury duty is burdensome to breastfeeding mothers, who may have to spend hours or days serving on a jury. The major difficulties may include the lack of access to a clean, private space to express breast milk, lack of access to electric outlets needed to operate a breast pump and the inability to take regular and long enough breaks to express breast milk. Granting an exemption is an easy, no cost option that allows breastfeeding mothers to take on the important civic responsibility of jury duty at a later time while giving them and their babies the opportunity to reap the health benefits of breastfeeding.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations\

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Women’s Health, *Breastfeeding Fact Sheet* (2013) , available at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/breastfeeding.html>.

² *Id.*

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To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 10:30am

On behalf of Breastfeeding Hawaii, I would like to express **our support of SB2452 Jury Duty for Breastfeeding Women**, exempting them from jury duty during the time they are breastfeeding or expressing milk for their baby.

Breastfeeding Hawaii is a non profit 501 © 3 organization representing Hawaii locally and nationally at the National US Breastfeeding Committee in Washington, D.C. Our mission is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the State of Hawaii. We do this through the organization of community efforts, outreach, policy change, education, legislation and advocacy.

Only one in five children in Hawaii receives the absolute minimum of six months exclusive breastfeeding, and fewer than one in three are receiving any breast milk at twelve months as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization to reduce risk of obesity, diabetes, infectious disease, asthma, allergies and certain childhood cancers. Women who breastfeed their children benefit too, with lower rates of breast and ovarian cancers, metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. Society benefits with lower health insurance costs and higher worker productivity.

Mother-child separation presents a serious challenge to continuing breastfeeding. It costs nothing to exempt a breastfeeding woman from jury duty, and can make a big difference in further preserving the breastfeeding relationship. A woman should never have to worry about how she is going to feed her baby or pump her milk, while required to sit in a courtroom jury box or be sequestered in jury deliberations.

In the United States, twelve states-California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon and Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have laws that exempt breastfeeding women from jury duty.

Breastfeeding Hawaii believes in supporting breastfeeding women to continue to breastfeed and/or provide breastmilk for their infant. We realize a mother may chose to perform her civic responsibility but if she cannot due the need to be with her infant to breastfeed or provide milk for the baby, she needs to be provided this exemption.

We also respectfully suggest the following amendment to this bill by changing the wording of Section 2, SS 612-6 Exempt When

“9) a mother who is breastfeeding a child or expressing breast milk ; and provided further that a mother may be exempt under this section for each child the mother breastfeeds. “

Accordingly, we encourage this Committee to favorably pass this bill, with the wording changes of Section 2, SS 612-6 , 9) noted above.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our viewpoint on this issue.

Janel Takasaki, RN, BSN, IBCLC
President
Breastfeeding Hawaii
State Breastfeeding Coalition



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Re: SB 2452

In support of bill, "Relating to Jury Duty," and exempting breastfeeding moms.

Dear Legislators,

I am writing you as President of the Hawai'i Dietetic Association (HDA). We have over 300 members in the state of Hawai'i including Guam and Saipan. The HDA is an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Our members are the trusted and credible source of food and nutrition information.

Breast milk provides the best nutrition for infants and decreases their risk of ear infections, respiratory illness, sudden infant death syndrome, obesity, and hypertension.

Breastfeeding also provides mom with benefits including weight loss after delivery, and reducing risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

HDA supports SB 2452 which would allow mothers to continue breastfeeding by exempting them from jury duty.

Most sincerely yours,

Sally Belles, RDN, CDE

President, Hawai'i Dietetic Association

sallysmiles@me.com, (808) 753-1472.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: mtshannon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2452 on Feb 20, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:57:04 PM

SB2452

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Shannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators, I am in support of SB2452 because it will promote optimal, uninterrupted breastfeeding of infants by their mothers during the critical period of the first year of life. There is an abundance of scientific evidence that documents the immediate and long-term benefits of breastfeeding of infants for a minimum of 12 months after birth. In addition, scientific evidence also documents that mothers that breastfeed have lower rates of ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, breast cancer and metabolic syndrome. Therefore, preventing the interruption of successful breastfeeding by mothers during their infants' first year of life is critical -- this would include jury duty that may result in the cessation of breastfeeding in the mothers selected as jurors. Respectfully, Maureen Shannon, CNM, FNP, PhD, FACNM, FAAN Associate Professor & Frances A. Matsuda Endowed Chair University of Hawaii School of Nursing

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: jenny@hiappleseed.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2452 on Feb 20, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:45:39 AM

SB2452

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help mothers successfully breastfeed and bond with their infants by establishing this reasonable exemption from jury duty.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: carolynmather@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2452 on Feb 20, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:13:37 PM

SB2452

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Donohoe Mather	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony on SB2452, Relating to Jury Duty Hearing: February 20, 2014-Thursday 10:30 AM Conference Room 016 State Capitol To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Judiciary and Labor Committee Members: I strongly support SB2452, Relating to Jury Duty. I am writing as a Registered Dietitian, an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, as someone who holds a Master's Degree in Maternal and Child Nutrition, and who regularly counsels breastfeeding mothers. No one would argue that a woman should be restricted from fully breastfeeding her child for at least 12 months. It is in the best interest of the woman and her health, her growing infant, and that child's health during infancy and for decades to come. When we remove barriers from women and infants, they choose to breastfeed. The barriers to breastfeeding a child are greater and more difficult to navigate for disadvantaged populations in Hawaii, as evidenced by lower rates of breastfeeding in women in low-income families or single-parent families. The barriers a woman faces can be almost invisible, the subtle worry about having to justify her cause to someone at the judiciary, or the difficulty of an immigrant mother who lacks understanding of the court system. With the provisions in SB2452, the legislature will be supporting mothers and infants in Hawaii throughout that critical first year. Health care professionals will be able to follow suit by providing mothers simple, clear education about their option to defer jury duty to avoid separation from their infant. Societies around the world are removing barriers that breastfeeding mothers face. Let remove this barrier in Hawaii. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Donohoe Mather, MAS, RDN, LD, IBCLC

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