



SB2569 SD1 (proposed)
RELATING TO HOME BIRTH

Senate Committee on Health
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 10, 2014

1:30 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Administration will recommend that the Board of Trustees **OPPOSE** the proposed SB2569 SD1, which would establish a home birth safety board, mandate the adoption of rules and protocols for home birth providers and prohibit certain women from seeking prenatal care outside of the hospital setting.

OHA urges the Legislature to recognize the unique social, economic and health needs and circumstances of Native Hawaiians. OHA research shows that there is a need to increase the availability of evidence-based, culturally appropriate infant health and development programs to ensure better infant health outcomes. OHA notes that traditional healing practices generally integrated a continuum of spiritual, mental and physical care. The balance and integration of modern medicine and cultural healing practices may therefore strengthen contemporary prenatal care and enhance Native Hawaiian wellness. For example, traditional prenatal care was both a medical practice and a mode of family development that merged the physical and social wellness of Native Hawaiians. Traditionally, pale keiki (midwives), partners and family members were a part of a woman's pregnancy and provided education, support and guidance. However, standard practices in Western medicine may fail to appreciate the clear benefits to such a traditional approach.

This measure regulates home birth practices, and may prohibit Native Hawaiian and other women from accessing a more traditional continuum of care, as informed by generations of Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge. OHA is concerned that while this bill includes exemptions for religious practices and emergency care, there is no exemption for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners; therefore it may significantly hinder the ability of Native Hawaiians to perpetuate time-tested birthing practices and exercise their constitutionally protected traditional and customary rights.

OHA understands the importance of ensuring that health professionals have some level of training and credentials. We note that as early as 1865, Kamehameha V began issuing licenses to Hawaiian kahuna. However, we do not believe that the regulation of traditional health practices, including traditional home birth practices, is the responsibility of the State of Hawai'i. OHA and the Legislature have repeatedly recognized this as the kuleana of the Native Hawaiian community, and, accordingly,

have previously moved to revive cultural practices surrounding prenatal care and childbirth. We have and will continue to support those practitioners and traditional healing practices presented to us by Papa Ola Lōkahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

Therefore, the OHA Administration urges the committee to **HOLD** the proposed SB2569 SD1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Monday – February 10, 2014 – 1:30pm
Conference Room 229

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; John A. Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology
Charles Neal, MD, PhD, Division Chair, Professor of Pediatrics
Tiong Han Tjoeng, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Re: SB2569, Proposed SD1 RELATING TO HOME BIRTH
Testimony In Support**

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Division of Neonatology at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children and the John A. Burns School of Medicine supports SB2569 Relating to Home Birth.

By establishing a home birth safety board, regulating home birth providers, developing home birth safety protocols, collecting home birth data, and requiring home birth providers to educate their clients on the risks and benefits of home birth based on recent evidence, this measure acknowledges the value of standardizing the level of care provided to Hawaii's newborns and mothers who choose to deliver at home.

We would recommend clarification on the bill regarding:

1. Chapter 6.a.1.d- The definition of a low risk delivery should be between 37 and 41 weeks gestation (ACOG recommendation).
2. Chapter 6.a.2 - The ideal travel time to a hospital should be less than 20 minutes from the home birth location (Ravelli et al, 2011).

Although we support this bill, we do not endorse planned home birth and believe the safest place for delivery is in the hospital setting. In addition, we agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Heart Association that each delivery should be attended by 2 individuals, at least 1 of whom is primarily responsible for the care of the newborn infant and has the appropriate training, skills, and equipment to perform a full resuscitation of the infant in accordance with the principles of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program. We stress that all newborn infants should be evaluated by a health care professional who is knowledgeable and experienced in pediatrics within 24 hours of birth, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We strongly believe it is essential that Hawaii's newborns and mothers receive the highest quality health care available.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Legislative Committee

Wailua Brandman, Chair
Amy Vasconcellos, Vice Chair
Beverly Laurongaboy Inocencio
Mandy Ki'aha
Sondra Leiggi
Danielle Naahielua
Moani Vertido
Cynthia Cadwell, Ex-Officio



HAWAII ASSOCIATION *of*
PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
February 10, 2014 9:00 am

SB 2569 and SB 2569, S.D.1 RELATING TO HOME BIRTH

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health; Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection; and Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to these measures, SB 2569 and SB 2569, SD1.

The Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN) appreciates the Committees' commitment to the address Hawai'i's health care issues. However, the creation of a home birth safety board within the DCCA which would regulate a number of practitioners, including Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), who are already licensed by the DCCA and national certifying boards. Home birthing is within the scope of certified nurse wifery practice. Both measures create regulatory redundancy as well as an unfair cost barrier for health care professionals who are already under state and national regulation.

HAPN feels that SB 2569 and SB 2569, SD1 are premature. If it is the wish of these Committees to pursue this issue, a task force should be established to research whether there is a need for and resources required to establish a home birth safety board; as well as, whose safety standards will apply, how peer review will be established for all practitioners and how disciplinary action will be handled for health care professionals already regulated under the DCCA.

Therefore, HAPN is strongly opposed this measure. We respectfully request that your Committees hold SB 2569 and SB 2569, SD1 or create a task force to study the issues involved, including a cost analysis and regulatory redundancy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Amy Vasconcellos, Vice Chair
Legislative Committee
Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses

Monday – February 10, 2014 – 1:30pm
Conference Room 229

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair

The Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair

The Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

From: Charles Neal, MD, PhD, Division Chair, Professor of Pediatrics
Tiong Han Tjoeng, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Kapi'olani Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
John A. Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawaii at Manoa,
Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology

Re: Testimony in Opposition
SB 2569 – Proposed SD1 Relating to Home Birth

While the Division of Neonatology at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children supports the intent of SB 2569 SD1 to improve safety standards of care related to home health births, we oppose SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth and instead prefer the original SB 2569. Our main concerns with the SD1 include the following:

- Unlike the original SB2569, the SD1 does not apply to other home birth professionals such as Medical Doctors (MD), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), Naturopaths, and Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) – who also perform these procedures. In order to ensure home birth safety for all Hawaii's women choosing home birth as an option, we feel strongly that all categories of health professionals providing this service be included with the oversight intended in this bill.
- Unlike the original SB2569, the SD1 does not provide provisions for formal obstetrics education requirement, safety regulations, informed consent, or data collection for all categories of individuals providing home births. The original bill provides standardized formal educational requirements to ensure safety.
- We also prefer the composition of the Home Birth Safety Board specified in the original bill which would be comprised of a broader panel of medical specialists who have the highest level of formalized training in ensuring healthy birth outcomes (e.g. labor & delivery registered nurses, obstetricians, maternal fetal medicine specialist, pediatrician, neonatologist etc).

We therefore ask that you hold SB 2569 SD1 and instead pass SB 2569 as it was originally drafted.

REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

For: Honorable Senate Committee Health Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members,

RE: **SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth - IN OPPOSITION**

To my Legislators: who represent the State of Hawaii:

Representative Chris Lee, House District 51

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Senate District 25

I am writing in comment to S.B. No. 2569 as a former and future Hawaii resident, with family who live there now, with a granddaughter who was born there, a place I visit several times a year, and as a Licensed Midwife in California since 1995, and previously in Washington State since 1981.

In agreement with the intention of this bill – that is to acknowledge the lack of licensure, educational certification requirements, standards of care, means of registration of providers and care provided, accountability – I see Hawaii has a unique opportunity to garnish the wisdom of “those who have gone before”, and create for Hawaii a Bill, an Act, a Law that will make Hawaii proud. That is not this bill.

Say **NO** to S.B. No. 2569 ! This bill is outdated, uninformed, inaccurate and selective insensibly, in violation of certain established rights, punitive and more.

Instead, why not create a NEW BILL? – No need to re-invent here. Many states, some as long as 30 years ago (Washington) have established midwifery programs and Medical Board Licensed Midwives, complete with educational and accreditation requirements which can lead to licensing, which then involves professional accountability, submission of statistics, and continuing education. All states which utilize Licensed Midwives demonstrate to their communities exemplary statistics, financial sensibility, patient satisfaction, appropriate utilization of resources in community collaborative management, and referral to provide integrated and uninterrupted care for women, thus families in our communities. Many studies, organizations, task forces, universities, medical journals, from worldwide practices and statistics, to our state-by-state detailed analyses do prove that when midwives are recognized as independent and collaborative practitioners with the rights and responsibilities regarding scope of practice, authority and accountability that all practitioners share, the system benefits at the level of hospitals, health systems, public programs, & at the family level, with continuity of care and the overall benefits of such.

The research is done, programs are working in other states. If our legislators became informed, and then enacted laws for standards and practice, then Hawaii could become exemplary in yet another way: in Health Care for Women, Families, that is to say: Our Communities, Us. Instead of staying a remnant of the past poor performance in economy and statistics, Hawaii could become the wave of the future in the model

of care most evidence-based, and economically suited for these times, with their intention/goals in alignment with and producing good outcomes for all.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter for our future.

Sincerely,

Kathe Gibbs LM #3, State of California

These are several other reasons to oppose SB 2569 and 2569 SD1:

1. On its face, this bill is inaccurate. It cites a flawed study, and it suggests home birth is dangerous and unsafe. I join other home birth practitioners, mothers and advocates to correct that notion. We realize that we have a responsibility to provide data and information about our home birth practices, our training, and our experiences to the legislature and community-at-large.
2. This bill currently tries to define a scope of practice without an in depth understanding of the various practitioners, roles and responsibilities involved in home birth. The medical hospital-based model it imposes doesn't take into account the population it is regulating and doesn't accurately represent different models of home birthing, each with unique traditions, scopes of practice, varying types of practitioners and their educational backgrounds, safety protocols and standards of care that are already in place.
3. The Home Birth Safety Board is also based on a medical model, and it does not reflect the culture and practice of home birth. It doesn't even reflect the participants of home birth practice. This bill assumes there is no oversight over home birth; in fact, midwives have the capacity to govern themselves.

4. As written, this bill would essentially eliminate the option of finding a legal home birth attendant. It is the rite/right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth their child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. Furthermore, this bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose. Requiring a registry of home birth mothers, for example, fosters stigma around home birth, a scarlet letter. Laws are created to protect consumers and ensure safety. But lawmakers also have the obligation to protect long standing cultural practices of birth.

5. Home birth is a deeply cultural practice that is both respected and honored. We are all descended from an ancestor who gave birth at home. It must be viewed in the context of a cultural, traditional, spiritual belief and practice, which is protected by law.

For all of these reasons and more, I strongly oppose this bill as it stands. The imposition of these state regulations simply does not take into account the important perspectives of the birth practitioners, the mothers, and advocates of home birth.

Yet, we recognize the need for more information and offer the following:

- We have already begun to form a Home Birth Council that reflects the variety of practices, mothers and advocates. This Council shall be self-defined and self-regulated.
- We request the opportunity to gather data, standards of care, and wise practices to present before the legislature at a later date.
- We request a legislative informational hearing that provides the opportunity to present information about the spectrum of home birth practitioners, their education and training, and existing standards of care.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter for our future!

Evidence in support of point #1

1. Planned Home vs Hospital Birth: A Meta-Analysis Gone Wrong, Medscape Ob/Gyn & Women's Health 4/1/2011 (<http://cfpcwp.com/MCDG/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Medscape-Wax-Critique-Michal-Janssen-Vedam-Hutton-de-Jonge.pdf>)
2. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse - Vital Statistics Hawaii (<http://www.hhdw.org/cms/index.php?page=vital-statistics>)
3. BMJ 2005;330;1416 Outcomes of planned home birth with certified professional midwives; large prospective study in North America
4. BJOG, 2009 Aug; 116(9):1177-84 Perinatal mortality and morbidity in a nationwide cohort of 529,688 low risk planned home and hospital births
5. The Myth of a Safer Hospital Birth for Low Risk Pregnancies (<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/myth-safer-hospital-birth-low-risk-pregnancies>)
6. AND MORE – add your own strongest studies, there are many!



HEALTHY MOTHERS
HEALTHY B·A·B·I·E·S
COALITION OF HAWAII

February 10, 2013

TO: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Lisa Kimura, Executive Director, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

RE: Testimony Opposing SB2569 and SB2569 SD1, relating to Home Births

HEARING: Monday, February 10, 2013 at 1:30 pm

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii (HMHB) stands in strong opposition to this bill.

From a maternal and child health perspective, the primary concerns with this bill are that:

1. We are already experiencing a dearth of perinatal service providers, particularly on neighbor islands, and to create barriers to care eliminates the potential for some women to receive much-needed health services in underserved areas. By reducing an option for prenatal care, we further diminish the capacity to serve women's health and obstetric needs.
2. It effectively eliminates any possibility for a vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) for neighbor island women because no hospitals outside Oahu permit VBACs. Mandating repeat surgical delivery for all neighbor island women creates an undue physical hardship, as surgical birth comes with its own set of significant risk factors and longer recovery periods.

Current research and data from the American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) stipulates: "The rate of cesarean delivery has increased dramatically in the US over the past four decades, **from 5% in 1970, to 32.3% in 2008 and a contributing factor behind this increase is a decline in the number of VBACs.** VBACs have been in steady decline since 1996 and fell to only 8.5% in 2006. Yet, it's estimated that **60–80 percent of appropriate candidates who attempt VBAC will be successful.**"

In fact, ACOG guidelines state that VBACs are a "safe and appropriate" choice for most women. ACOG's August 2010 Practice Bulletin *Vaginal Birth After Previous Cesarean Delivery* states that "**attempting a VBAC is a safe and appropriate choice for most women who have had a prior cesarean delivery, including for some women who have had two previous cesareans.**"

ACOG's April 2013 Committee Opinion on Cesarean Delivery on Maternal Request states: "**Potential risks of cesarean delivery include a longer maternal hospital stay, an increased risk of respiratory problems for the infant, and greater complications in subsequent pregnancies, including uterine rupture, placental implantation problems, and the need for hysterectomy.** Potential short-term benefits of planned cesarean delivery compared with a planned vaginal delivery (including women who give birth vaginally and those who require cesarean delivery in labor) include a decreased risk of hemorrhage and transfusion, fewer surgical complications, and a decrease in urinary incontinence during the first year after delivery. **Given the balance of risks and benefits, the Committee on Obstetric Practice believes that in the absence of maternal or fetal indications for cesarean delivery, a plan for vaginal delivery is safe and appropriate and should be recommended to patients.**"

Therefore, this bill labeling previous cesareans as a "high risk" factor and restricting midwives from delivering VBACs is contra-indicated according to all prevailing ACOG recommendations. Why would the state of Hawaii even consider mandating surgical births for women who are otherwise not given a hospital setting to deliver a baby on neighbor islands? This is simply instating an additional barrier to care, with a procedure that comes with significant risks, as noted above.

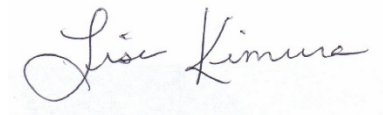
Finally, **according to the *State of Hawaii Primary Care Needs Assessment Data (2012)*, several islands in our state (including areas of Kauai, Oahu, Lanai, Maui and Hawaii) report 29.5 to 63.2 percent of mothers received "less than adequate prenatal care."** Much of this is due to an existing lack of providers and other contributing factors, such as lack of transportation to prenatal appointments. Midwives and other providers often mean the difference between receiving prenatal care or not – something that directly impacts our birth outcomes and maternal and infant mortality rates.

HMHB believes first and foremost in establishing and sustaining access to high-quality, reliable perinatal health care within our state. We believe in the need for ongoing training and recertification for midwives and naturopathic practitioners, but this bill is short-sighted and far over-reaching in its intents.

By effectively criminalizing midwifery, and prohibiting VBACs in non-medically indicated situations, this bill will not improve access to care, nor the quality of our care providers. HMHB stands in strong opposition to the wording of the bill and ask that you consider more proactive, education-based improvements to our midwife care system, rather than non-research based restrictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Kimura". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Lisa Kimura
Executive Director
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii

845 22nd Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 737-5805
www.hmhb-hawaii.org

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN OPPOSITION TO S.B. NO. 2569
PROPOSED S.D. 1**

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2014

TIME: 1:30 pm

To: Chairs Josh Green, Rosalyn Baker and Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate
Committees on Health, Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Judiciary and Labor :

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in OPPOSITION to S.B. No. 2569, proposed S.D. 1, relating to Home Birth. This opposition is to the immunity provisions of the measure in section 11.

The immunity provision is entitled “Immunity from vicarious liability,” however as written it provides absolute liability from any type of liability – not just vicarious liability – as long as the injury arises out of the negligence of a midwife. Based on the title of the section, it appears that the purpose of the immunity section is to make clear that doctors, hospitals, technicians and ambulance personnel who provide emergency treatment for a home delivery that involves complications do not “inherit” the liability of the midwife simply because they provide follow up emergency care. This is already the law in Hawaii. HAJ does not object to this remaining the law.

Doctors and others are not vicariously liable for the acts of a midwife unless the midwife is an employee or agent. In Hawaii, many midwives are employed by doctors, particularly in clinic settings, and work under the supervision and direction of doctors. They operate as assistants to doctors in those situations, take their orders from doctors, and are part of a team. In many clinic settings doctors are required to review and sign off

on midwife treatment notes as part of the doctors' supervisory responsibilities. This measure would eliminate the responsibility of supervising doctors where midwives work under the direction of or for doctors. The responsibility of supervising doctors is essential for patient safety and should not be diminished. Doctors and others are already not vicariously liable for the acts of independent midwives under current Hawaii law. This section is not needed as current law is appropriate.

The immunity as written may be construed to apply to independent acts of negligence by emergency service providers. There should be no immunity where for example, ambulance or hospital personnel mistakenly administer carbon dioxide instead of oxygen to a baby. The current language "arising out of any injury resulting from an omission of a licensed midwife" can be construed to mean that immunity applies to any subsequent treatment caused by the initial midwife negligence. We suspect that this was not intended.

The immunity also extends to any consultation or referral from a midwife. This is over broad. Doctors are currently not vicariously liable for independent midwife negligence based on the mere fact that they were consulted or accepted a referral. However, immunity should not apply to any independent negligence of the doctor during the consultation or referral process. For example, if a midwife correctly determines that a doctor consultation or referral is needed for a delivery and the doctor negligently instructs the patient or midwife that they should follow treatment protocol A, when in fact they should follow protocol B, there should be no immunity for the independent negligent consultation or referral. The purpose of encouraging midwife consultation and referral to a doctor is to further patient safety by obtaining the expertise of a physician when needed.

Patient safety will be eroded if doctor responsibility for independent negligence in connection with consultations and referrals is eliminated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions.

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Roz Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Water & Land

The Honorable Roz Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members, Senate Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Rachel L. Curnel Struempf, DEM
Date: February 10th, 2014
Hrg: Senate Committee on Health/Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection/Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; Mon. February 10th 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Rm 229
Re: SB 2569 and SB2569 SD1, Relating to Home Birth – In Opposition

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition of SB 2569 and SB 2569 SD1, both of which attempt to regulate midwifery in the State of Hawaii.

Here are some reasons why I OPPOSE SB2569 and SB2569 SD1:

- Both bills take away choices for women when it comes to their reproductive health.
- SB2569 threatens women's health and would all but make midwifery and home birth illegal in the state of Hawaii, forcing mothers who choose to home birth to potentially go underground in finding illegal care providers which may pose a risk to herself and her baby. The bill also infringes on patients' rights and violates their right to medical privacy.
- Home birth with a trained midwife is SAFE. This bill uses false data to support its claim. It refers to a two to three fold increase in neonatal mortality and that is cited from a study that has been refuted. Here are studies addressing that particular study, along with others that support home birth with a trained midwife to be just as safe as a hospital birth. (1,2,3,4,5)
- We are not opposed to regulation – however the regulations in SB2569 don't make sense and neither bill promotes the health of mothers or their babies.
- These bills do NOT take into account cultural practices in home birth. It must be viewed in the context of a cultural, traditional, spiritual belief and practice, which is protected by law.
- The Home Birth Safety Board is also based on a medical model, and it does not reflect the culture and practice of home birth. It doesn't even reflect the participants of home birth practice. The Home Birth Safety Board should be autonomous from the Hawaii Medical Board. There should be a Home Birth Providers Board overseen directly by the DCCA .
- The Home Birth Safety Board to be comprised of the home birth providers primarily, with some OB/MD representation but certainly not the majority or even half.
- It is the right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth their child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. This bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose.

Suggestions:

Write a new bill next legislative session that addresses the concerns stated above and include home birth providers and key stakeholders in the birthing community when drafting new legislation. Amending SB2569 OR SB2569 SD1 is NOT an option. Both bills are too flawed to correct given the time constraints of the legislature. A complete overhaul of these bills must ensue. There are many suggestions for a new bill, please let's work together to create it..

Thank you for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Rachel L. Curnel Struempf

Sources:

1. "Home Birth versus Hospital Birth: Questioning the Quality of the Evidence on Safety" article published in Birth (Volume 30, Issue 1, pages 57-63, March 2003) "In contrast, the Midwives Association of Washington State press release stated that 'Childbearing women and health policy makers should be made aware that the study contains numerous flaws and limitations...this study alone should not be used to make decisions that could restrict women's choice of birth place or access to birth attendants with expertise in home birth'" (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../j.1523-536X.../abstract>)
2. Planned Home vs Hospital Birth: A Meta-Analysis Gone Wrong, Medscape Ob/Gyn & Women's Health 4/1/2011 (<http://cfpcwp.com/.../Medscape-Wax-Critique-Michal...>)
3. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse - Vital Statistics Hawaii (<http://www.hhdw.org/cms/index.php?page=vital-statistics>)
4. BMJ 2005;330;1416 Outcomes of planned home birth with certified professional midwives; large prospective study in North America
5. BJOG, 2009 Aug; 116(9):1177-84 Perinatal mortality and morbidity in a nationwide cohort of 529,688 low risk planned home and hospital births
6. The Myth of a Safer Hospital Birth for Low Risk Pregnancies (<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/.../myth-safer-hospital-birth...>)
"Study validity questioned" in The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (volume 204, Issue 4, page e14, April 2011) ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(10\)01107-5/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(10)01107-5/fulltext))
7. Home birth metaanalysis: does it meet AJOG's reporting requirements? ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00074-3/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00074-3/fulltext))
8. International data demonstrate home birth safety. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21458614>)
9. "Home birth triples the neonatal death rate": public communication of bad science? ([http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00075-5/abstract](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00075-5/abstract))
10. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23769011>
11. <http://www.bmj.com/content/330/7505/1416>
12. Outcomes of Care for 16,924 Planned Home Births in the United States: The Midwives Alliance of North America Statistics Project, 2004 to 2009 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jmwh.12172/pdf>

February 9, 2014

To the Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor

With regards to SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm, room 229

Aloha, and thank you for reading this testimony.

My name is Jyoti Mau and I am in strong opposition of SB2569 and SB2569SD1 because of the significant inconsistencies with what they propose. I strongly agree that the care a mother and child receive during a planned out-of-hospital birth should be of the highest quality. Care that is based upon evidence based research and sound science. This scientific research abounds on the safety of planned homebirth. This information is readily available and should be what is looked upon in Hawaii's dialogue to optimize out-of-hospital birth models.

In doing so Hawaii will join the success of other highly industrialized places in the world who rank higher than the United States for maternal and infant outcomes. In fact, the United States falls behind all other highly industrialized nations when it comes to maternal and infant mortality rates. This is a fact that should not be ignored. Where evidence-based science is embraced and implemented, the health of mothers and babies far exceeds those places in which inaccurate science and basic 'standards of practice' are the norm.

If we choose to follow the lead of other highly industrialized countries around the world- where midwifery is viewed as a normal, optimal choice for the 80% of women who have low-risk pregnancies. And where planned out-of-hospital birth is also viewed as a safe option for low-risk pregnancies, everyone in Hawaii will benefit. Well, potentially obstetricians will need to find greater economic endeavors in their gynecology work, but if this benefits the safety of mothers, babies, and their families, than that is what needs to happen. This is a dialogue about safety, and safety of a very sacred moment in a family's life. This should not be compromised by economics.

Also the studies cited in these bills that speak of infant mortality in planned homebirth are misleading and outright false. Again, sound science

abounds with regards to planned out-of-hospital birth and this is what needs to be used in this discussion. As well as the voices of the caregivers who provide these services. This dialogue needs to unite all out-of-hospital home birth providers to ensure that no part of the necessary dialogue is left out. This dialogue, based upon accurate information, will only serve to strengthen our mothers and babies, families, and communities. Providing legislation that is up to date with our times and one that will carry Hawaii into a healthier future.

Thank you for your time.

Jyoti Mau

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: tbynum@kauai.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 1:50:13 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
County of Kauai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I submit this testimony as an individual member of the Kauai County Council. Home birth with midwifery care is a choice for a family to make and a rich range of belief and options are available to the people of Hawaii. SB2569 and SB2569 carve out a portion of this range of options and exclude others. The history of home birth is midwifery not a medical model. This measure in its current form is exclusive and limits personal choice.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: vaughnpaul108@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 2:04:21 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vaughn Paul Manley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Birthing is not a disease, Birthing does not belong to the Medical corporations, Birthing belongs to the families and their choices need to be respected. Besides, has been proven over & over that HomeBirths are much more conducive to the well being of the Baby and his/her caregivers... These bills will make it impossible for Homebirth to be a choice, and for midwives to continue to offer a valuable alternative to natural birthing practices that have stood the test of time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: amykirbow@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 2:06:43 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Kirbow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This testimony is in regards to SB 2569 SD-1. I am a supporter of this bill and think it should pass. I am a midwife, a CPM that is certified under NARM. I have been a midwife for several years and have worked in Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas. These states have laws that allow midwives to conduct home births. It has filled the needs of women in these states and has allowed women to have more choice than they otherwise would have had. The midwives and doctors have a great relationship and the community has been strengthened because of this in every place I have worked. These laws have been helping women in the vast majority of the country, and Hawaii is one of the few states that does not currently have the ability for its women to have a safe home birth. This bill fixes the problem. There are very difficult circumstances, especially where I live on the Big Island, where women have limited choices for prenatals. The Birth Center in Waimea is overcrowded and many women in the community have told me that they would choose a home birth but felt there was no access. The bill allows solid oversight, gives women greater choices, and fills many of the needs that are missing in our community. I want to see Hawaii at the forefront of birth, women's choices, and the ability for better birth outcomes across the islands. This bill addresses all of these and is a positive step forward for our communities.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: willsilver@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 3:42:00 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Navran	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Birthing belongs to the families and their choices need to be respected. These bills will make it impossible for Home birth to be a choice.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: morganthursday@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 3:19:20 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Morgan Evans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose both versions of this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: gomidwife@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 2:18:32 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha! I am the head of an international alliance of midwives called goMidwife. We work in nations around the world as well as the United States. In all of our travels and experience we have come across birth situations that are dangerous, limit the health and welfare of both the mother and the baby, and limit the choices and opportunities for women in their communities. I am happy to say that the bill submitted by Senator Green, SB 2569 SD-1, meets or exceeds the standards we have seen around the world. The World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the Millennium Development Goals that have been set out to help nations around the world meet the challenges of maternal and child health are based on what we call "Best Practices". These help ensure the safety of the mother and baby from conception through delivery and into postpartum care. This bill has taken these realities to heart and is in complete agreement with the best and safest ways to ensure that mothers and babies receive the care they need, have the best outcomes, and give women the freedom, access, and ability to choose the care that is best for them and their family. We wholeheartedly support this bill and look forward to seeing Hawaii as part of the global solution for maternal and child health.

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To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm, Room 229

RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

In Opposition of SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

My daughter turned 21 months old today. She is thriving and healthy. Oh, and she was born on our lanai in Kaneohe, in a birthing tub. She is my first child, and it was essential to her mother and I that she was born in an environment in which we were completely comfortable. While we completely respect the choice of others to give birth in hospitals, we knew that this was not the right choice for us, and we never imagined that this right to choose might one day be restricted in any way by the State of Hawaii.

During the labor and delivery of our daughter, everything went smoothly, thanks to my knowledgeable, experienced (traditional) midwife and doula. It was the most amazing experience, and I am fully convinced (and there is plenty of research to support my claim) that laboring in the comfort of our home, in an environment that allowed my wife to move with the contractions in a way that was instinctual to her body, while being surrounded only by people that we asked to be present were all essential elements to her smooth and relatively quick birth. It was truly the most amazing and perfect day of our lives.

Research shows that home births are indeed safe- as safe, if not safer, than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, I encourage our elected officials to study all birth options, home and hospital, to discern what is safe. Are rising cesarean rates, inductions, medications, etc. safe? "C-sections" are talked about so casually by Hollywood stars today, but let's be clear- it is serious surgery, and if they can be avoided, they should be. I hope the legislature takes this opportunity to realize that we need to begin a true dialogue on this topic. If legislators are truly interested in learning about the home birth option, as Senator Green's press release indicates, then instead of jumping to action, please take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model versus the medical model of birthing. I encourage you all to become educated on the topic. It is truly fascinating, as I discovered during my personal research to learn about the options for us even before my wife became pregnant.

My wife and I are proud to consider ourselves part of the home birthing community now, and we, as much as the general public, home birth practitioners, and the legislators, are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what SB2569 or SB2569 SD1 will provide. Instead, as written, these bills will restrict the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings that feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. I strongly believe that it is not the Legislature's right to decide how and where someone can birth. Indeed, I view it as being in direct conflict with our civil liberties. Our state has come so far recently with Civil Unions (to which I applaud our Legislature). Please don't take a step backwards with SB2569 or SB2569 SD1.

Indeed, this bill is extremely divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners – so that they can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences for which the community is asking. Our personal midwife, who has likely delivered more babies naturally than most obstetricians her age, is an amazing resource to the community. We trusted her with my wife's life and that of our then unborn child. We instilled this trust in her not because we are hippies (which we are not), but because we did our research and explored all of our options. Hawaii is lucky to have her working in this field. It would be an utter shame to criminalize the work that she performs for families in the islands.

If my wife and I are lucky enough to be blessed with another child, I sincerely hope that the State of Hawaii does not restrict our options and civil liberties to choose how and where to deliver our baby. Please work with all the professionals and experts in the field to arrive at a solution that enhances safety and quality care.

I urge you to please let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners, etc. to gather data, dialogue, and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and then bring this back to the legislature next session.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: saraghiasi12@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 2:30:02 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sara ghiasi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support Senator Green's Bill, SB 2569 SD-1. The citizens of Hawaii have deserved to have a voice in their own medical choices and this Bill does just that. It realizes there is a need for more and better birth care across the Hawaiian Islands, it gives women more freedom of choice with their health care, and it uses common sense approaches to meet a growing demand for access. This bill follows the example of more than 2/3 of all the other states that are already allowing midwives to perform safe home births under guidelines that are considered Best Practices by multiple organizations including MANA, NARM, ACOG, and the AMA. There are those that would claim this Bill removes choice from patients. There is nothing further from the truth than this. Bill SB 2569 and the SD-1 corollary increase access, provide a set of guidelines that before were a gray area, give greater choice to women, and legitimize a practice that hundreds of women are already choosing while providing for safety and meeting the needs of a growing population that currently does not have adequate options. I strongly support this bill as do the majority of my friends and colleagues. We can become a leader in women's health care in this state, but only by moving forward in support of Bills such as this. I urge you therefore to support this bill and follow the example of the vast majority of the rest of the nation in legalizing home birth under the auspices of clear and safe oversight.

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1. To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

2. Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229

3. RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

4. Oppose

5. Aloha, I am opposed to this bill for many reasons. Other than the fact that this bill is trying to make decisions about our birth experiences for us. It goes against our right to choose how we have our babies and if I feel safer at home with a midwife than I do in a hospital then that is my choice and my right. Here are four main points for opposing this bill.

A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.

B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislature's right to decide how and where someone can birth.

C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.

D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm, Room 229

RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

In Opposition of SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

My daughter turned 21 months old today. She is thriving and healthy. Oh, and she was born on our lanai in Kaneohe, in a birthing tub. She is my first child, and it was essential to her father and I that she was born in an environment in which we were completely comfortable. As several of my close family members have died in hospitals by contracting viruses completely separate from why they were admitted to the hospital in the first place, I personally have a gripping fear of hospitals. While I completely respect the choice of others to give birth in such settings, I instinctually knew that this was not the right choice for me, and I never imagined that this right to choose might one day be restricted in any way by the State of Hawaii.

During the labor and delivery of my daughter, everything went smoothly, and I was completely at ease, thanks to my knowledgeable, experienced (traditional) midwife and doula. I am fully convinced (and there is plenty of research to support my claim) that laboring in the comfort on my home, in an environment that allowed me to move with the contractions in a way that was instinctual to my body, and being surrounded only by people that I asked to be present were all essential elements to my smooth, relatively quick, and orgasmic (yes, I said it) birth. It was truly the most amazing and perfect day of my life.

Research shows that home births are indeed safe- as safe, if not safer, than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, I encourage our elected officials to study all birth options, home and hospital, to discern what is safe. Are rising cesarean rates, inductions, medications, etc. safe? "C-sections" are talked about so casually by Hollywood stars today, but let's be clear- it is serious surgery, and if they can be avoided, they should be. I hope the legislature takes this opportunity to realize that we need to begin a true dialogue on this topic. If legislators are truly interested in learning about the home birth option, as Senator Green's press release indicates, then instead of jumping to action, please take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model versus the medical model of birthing. I encourage you all to become educated on the topic. It is truly fascinating, as I discovered during my personal research to learn about the options for me even before I became pregnant.

My husband and I are proud to consider ourselves part of the home birthing community now, and we, as much as the general public, home birth practitioners, and the legislators, are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what SB2569 or SB2569 SD1 will provide. Instead, as written, these bills will restrict the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings that feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. I strongly believe that it is not the Legislature's right to decide how and where someone can birth. Indeed, I view it as being in direct conflict with my civil liberties. Our state has come so far recently with Civil Unions (to which I applaud our Legislature). Please don't take a step backwards with SB2569 or SB2569 SD1.

Indeed, this bill is extremely divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners – so that they can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences for which the community is asking. Our personal midwife, who has likely delivered more babies naturally than most obstetricians her age, is an amazing resource to the community. We trusted her with my life and that of our then unborn child. We instilled this trust in her not because we are hippies (which we are not), but because we did our research and explored all of our options. Hawaii is lucky to have her working in this field. It would be an utter shame to criminalize the work that she performs for families in the islands.

If my husband and I are lucky enough to be blessed with another child, I sincerely hope that the State of Hawaii does not restrict our options and civil liberties to choose how and where to deliver our baby. I

have to say, I can envision a world where such legislation actually backfires and forces the home birthing community 'underground.' I, for one, would likely still have a home birth with the midwife of my choosing, license or not, if she were willing to assist me. But I would then have to forgo the honest dialogue of my plans with my "backup" obstetrician, which I also visited regularly alongside my prenatal visits with my midwife. Could this increase the risk in home births? Possibly. Is the Legislature willing to take that gamble? I know for a fact that similar programs/legislation that have been enacted in other locations, including where my sister lives, have forced many midwives to assist with home births "illegally" because they are not part of some bureaucratic system forced upon the community. My sister just had her second child in such a community, in the comfort of her home, with a "non-licensed" midwife. So it was "illegal." But it was still the best choice for their family, and both of my nephews (both born at home) are happy and healthy. Please don't force our community underground. Instead, please work with all the professionals and experts in the field to arrive at a solution that enhances safety and quality care.

I urge you to please let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners, etc. to gather data, dialogue, and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and then bring this back to the legislature next session.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sharvey@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 5:14:12 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Harvey, MD	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: February 10, 2014, Monday, 13:30 Conference room 229 Hawaii State Capitol To: Senator Josh Green, Chair - Committee on Health Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair - Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor From: Scott A Harvey, MD, MS. 808-772-2700c Re: SB 2065/SB2065SD1, Relating to Health Position: Strongly in support of licensure, patient safety rules/regulations, informed consent, data collections, and establishment of board to ensure Home Birth Safety in Hawaii as per Hawaii ACOG testimony. Dear Senators Green, Baker, and Hee: I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen and not representing any organization. From a resident physician perspective, in the past three and a half years, I have been involved in several cases where there has been a poor outcome associated with an attempted home birth, for which the patient and baby are often rushed to the hospital. Occasionally, we are able to act in enough time (sometimes by seconds!) using emergent protocols resulting in a good outcome. However, far too often, a tragedy occurs affecting the baby, resulting in either serious neurologic injury or death. As an obstetrics-gynecology resident physician in Hawaii, I cared for a patient with a known high-risk pregnancy who attempted a home birth. On admission to the hospital, her baby was already in critical condition in-utero, and sadly passed away. This was her first baby and she was seen by a home birth provider that did not have formal education in obstetrics nor newborn care. The provider decided to attempt a home delivery in a remote area, at least 45 minutes from a hospital. The pregnancy was post-term (over a week past her due date) and breech (butt down). These factors make this pregnancy extremely complicated, even if she were laboring at a tertiary care hospital. The patient was poorly informed about pregnancy and childbirth, what aspects denoted a complicated and high-risk pregnancy, and relied upon her home birth provider for information. She was not informed of alternative treatments which could have included an external cephalic version (turning the baby to a head down position in the hospital, which works in the majority of cases), and that we allow vaginal breech deliveries at certain high-risk hospitals if the patient desires. On the advice of her home birth provider, the patient decided to undergo labor at home with a breech presentation. The standard of care when laboring a patient in the breech position includes an ultrasound for head/neck positioning (risking the baby to break its neck), an estimated fetal weight (to determine the success rate of a vaginal

delivery), and providing continuous fetal monitoring (to see if the baby is doing ok during labor). The patient apparently progressed in labor and was instructed to start pushing at 8 cm. The standard of care, especially with a woman who has not had a baby before, is to start pushing when the patient is completely dilated. If pushing starts too early, this can place a strain on the cervix, which may reduce blood flow to the baby by a physiologic phenomenon called Ferguson's reflex, and/or tear the cervix and risk a severe maternal bleeding after delivery. While at home, according to the patient, the baby's heartbeat was checked by the home birth provider, and noted to be in distress. When distress of the baby occurs, our optimal goal is to restore a normal heart rate or deliver the baby within 10 minutes to prevent irreversible brain damage. However, the home birth location was 45 minutes away by ambulance. Due to the delay of delivery by being at a remote location, the delayed recognition of fetal distress by the home birth provider, the long transit time to the hospital, and initial refusal of an expedited delivery, the baby was without oxygen for too long and was born with a very low heartbeat and not moving or breathing. Despite all of our medical interventions, the baby died later that week as a result of the severe prolonged distress during labor at home and the 45 minute transport. When the patient understood how this tragedy could have been prevented, the patient was saddened by her decision to hire her home birth provider. She felt tremendous guilt over her decision making process in believing the home birth provider. This is not the first time I have cared for patients who attempted home birth with tragic outcomes. I have had several more very similar experiences. It has been well known in our obstetrics literature that a planned home birth results in a 2-3 times higher risk of the baby dying, a fact that is often left out of counseling by home birth providers. A recent large study found that the risk of neonatal death with planned home birth is 4 times higher than hospital birth. If this is the mother's first baby that risk increases to 7 times higher, and if the mother is greater than 41 weeks gestation the risk is 10 times higher. (Grunebaum A, Chervenak F, etal. Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Abstract. February 7, 2014.) I am in firm belief of a woman's right to choose to perform a home birth or to go to the hospital. However, I feel that it is imperative that her risk be stratified (i.e.-no high risk deliveries at home), she be counseled appropriately, and within the hands of a skilled provider with a formal obstetrics education and training in neonatal resuscitation that can care for both the mother and baby. From my personal experience with these tragedies, it is absolutely necessary for the Legislature to step in to identify providers who have the education to practice such medicine and to regulate this process, to help prevent the unnecessary deaths of women and their babies in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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1. To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

2. Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229

3. RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

4. Oppose

5. Four main points:

A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.

B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislature's right to decide how and where someone can birth.

C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.

D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth
Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
OPPOSE

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

I am submitting testimony today in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2569. I am a proud mother of two children, both of whom I gave birth to at my home naturally, with a trained, experienced midwife and doula. I am concerned with a bill that wants to limit My PERSONAL CHOICE as a woman, as a mother, and as a citizen. It was my choice to have my children at home without medical assistance. It was my choice to choose not to have any pre-testing done or ultrasounds during my pregnancy. This bill suggests limiting home births to clients with normal, low-risk pregnancies. If a woman chooses to forgo the testing that assesses for the low-risk pregnancy, then shall she be eliminated from having a choice in the matter?

This bill needs to be entirely reconsidered and rewritten. Safety is an issue for all mothers at all times, no matter what way they choose to give birth. If safety is the true concern to pose a bill as this, then consider the natural birthing community for the research, the resources, and the education concerning safety factors. Midwives are the ones doing the home births and who are educated and experienced in doing so. A task force composed of those who practice in the midwifery model is where to start in considering any adjustments to the already working model.

There are risks involved in every woman's birthing decision whether at home or at a hospital. Do more research on what IS working and safe in the midwifery model before imposing a bill that limits personal choice. After all, how do we think civilization has maintained and come this far? Natural birth of course!

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important bill,

Dina Lloyd, LSW

Mother of naturally birthed children in my home

1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
February 9, 2014

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
COMMENTS
SB2569, RELATING TO HOME BIRTH
SB2569 SD1

Hearing, Monday, February 10, 2014, 1:30 p.m., Room 229

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguichi, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Aloha mai, kākou

I am writing to provide comments for your consideration in acting on SB2569 and SB2569, SD1. Since time immemorial, midwives have delivered babies. Within the last three years, I am happy to report that two of my nephews were delivered by midwives. My niece had every confidence in her midwife, a relationship important to mothers, especially new ones.

When this bill was announced for a hearing, my niece sent me the bill and asked for support to oppose, the essential reason being that the very people impacted by this bill, i.e., grassroots midwives, were not consulted. They are not against all of the provisions of the bill, but want the opportunity to “kuka kuka” about it and then come back to the legislature next year.

Accordingly, recommend that the bill be deferred to allow for consultation with grass-roots mid-wives, some of whom don't have the credentials outlined in the proposed bill, but whom have delivered babies safely for many, many years. It's important that their mana'o be considered and respected. Too, it would allow for the model to be framed in consideration of a mid-wife viewpoint vs a purely medical viewpoint.

Mahalo for the opportunity to give this testimony.

Respectfully

LEIMOMI KHAN

Testimony of Laulani Teale, MPH
in OPPOSITION to SB 2569, Relating to Home Birth
and SB 2569 SD1, Relating to Home Birth

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

2-9-2014

Aloha Kākou,

I write today in very strong opposition to all versions of SB 2569, which would severely impact the reproductive choices, cultural practice rights, and safety of mothers throughout Hawai'i.

I further ask that this measure be terminated outright. Deferral and/or further amendment of this measure is not a good option at this point. While I am very much open to communication and possible future legislation that could truly benefit everyone, this will simply not happen through this avenue. With respect and acknowledgement for the good intentions that may have been behind this effort, the fact is that this process has been far too adversarial and aggressive, and far too threatening to sacred traditions and professional livelihoods, for the out-of-hospital birthing community to support this measure in any form. We need to start over completely – beginning with true respect for the choices of all mothers, and true respect and support for those who assist them.

This measure affects me personally on many levels. As a public health person, mother and cultural practitioner, I ask each of your respective committees to consider these impacts individually.

HEALTH. I am a researcher and public health professional whose focus is on **Kanaka Maoli health.** My mentor has been, and still is, Dr. Richard Kekuni Blaisdell, M.D., with whom I have worked for well over 20 years, and who actively supported both my Master's Degree in Public Health and my actual practice in community health interventions, as well as my activism. Thus, a particular area of my professional focus is on the element of self-determination as a crucial component of Kanaka Maoli Health, the erosion of which is a major root of native health problems of all kinds.

Self-determination is a major determinant of health outcomes. Self-determination begins at birth. Self-determination is eroded by external limitation of cultural practices through colonial force. For example, external determination by the State government or a hospital of the parameters in which women are "allowed" to give birth, and "coercive assimilation" (identified by Dr. Blaisdell as a major factor in poor Kanaka Maoli health) through external determination of who will share that sacred space of birthing with them, destroys self-determination. With this measure in place, children would be forced to learn the lesson – literally from day one -- that it is the government and the medical establishment that makes health decisions on their behalf, not themselves and their 'ohana.

Increased reliance on the government of the State of Hawai'i (which is, in itself, not a legal entity by international standards) and reliance on medical doctors and hospitals to make health decisions for us, is precisely not what Kanaka Maoli need for improved health as a people. What we need for improved health outcomes of all kinds is the ability to practice our culture and traditions without interference or over-regulation. We need a community that respects our practices as the original practices of this land, and contributes their own awesome cultural strengths, traditions and ideas in a non-destructive, non-invasive manner. We need the ability to teach our children, and all children, that they have everything they need to determine their own health and well-being right here in their 'ohana, in their community, in their culture – and most importantly, in their own sense of pono.

Committee on Health: it is your obligation to vote NO on this measure.

CONSUMER PROTECTION. I am a mother who has given birth to two healthy children, both born outside of the hospital in accordance to my cultural traditions, with an excellent midwife who is not Hawaiian, but had the knowledge and cultural competence to manage challenging situations, address complications, and protect me and my children throughout their birth and beyond. *That* is consumer protection.

As a “consumer”, I do not recall asking the State of Hawai'i to regulate my midwife. I do not recall asking a State-created Board to tell me what I can or cannot do with my body, or how I may practice the most sacred aspect of my culture, or with whom I may do so. I do not recall hearing other women asking for regulation of their reproductive choices, either.

The regulation criteria set forth in Section 26H-2, HRS, amended by Act 45, SLH 1996, of the Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act are designed to ensure that regulation of an occupation takes place only for the right reason: to protect consumers. The policies set forth in Section 26H-2 continue to reinforce the primary purpose of consumer protection, and state, among other things, that:

- *The State should regulate professions and vocations only where reasonably necessary to protect consumers.* When home birth mothers, the consumers of the services in question, are saying en masse that they do not want regulation, then regulation is simply, clearly not reasonably necessary for their protection as consumers.
- *Evidence of abuses by providers of the service should be given great weight in determining whether a reasonable need for regulation exists.* There is only speculation, and not a single piece of solid evidence, that any abuses by any providers of home birthing services exist at all. Therefore, the weight in Section 26H-2 hangs clearly away from regulation, not toward it.
- *Regulation should be avoided if it artificially increases the costs of goods and services to the consumer unless the cost is exceeded by the potential danger to the consumer.* Clearly, the extra “hoops” mandated in this bill, for both mothers and midwives, would astronomically

increase the costs of services. Licensure fees, excessive medical monitoring (e.g. for conditions such as “previous illegal drug use”, “psychosocial conditions that may affect pregnancy”, previous multiple gestation, etc.), and the elimination of lower-cost ‘ohana, cultural and spiritual practitioners, all artificially increase costs. Because no actual danger has been proven (despite extensive theorizing and speculation), regulation is counter-indicated.

- ***Regulation should not unreasonably restrict qualified persons from entering the profession.*** Clearly, many qualified persons would be restricted from entering the profession. Cultural practitioners, many of whom are mandated not to hold any license other than that granted by Ke Akua, would be forced underground, criminalized, or exterminated. Our children would be forced to assimilate to the medical model of birth. That is not okay.
- ***Aggregate fees for regulation and licensure must not be less than the full costs of administering the program.*** This “Home Birth Board” would be tasked with licensure (including application processing, renewal, suspension, revocation, reinstatement, and all of the challenges that go with this), rulemaking, complaint handling, investigation, discipline, and overall oversight of a profession that half of its members know very little about. Even without an office or paid staff (without which the work it is tasked with is practically impossible), the fees would clearly be less than the costs of administration, which would probably fall on its volunteers.

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection: it is your obligation to vote NO on this measure.

JUDICIARY and LABOR. I am a Kanaka Maoli cultural practitioner, and I refuse to give up my inherent rights to practice the culture of my ancestors. Committee on Judiciary, I call upon you to protect my constitutional rights to the continuation of my culture, which may not be regulated out of existence by the State of Hawai‘i, per the ruling of the Supreme Court of that State in 1995 (PASH), as well as many subsequent rulings.

I have the constitutional right to transmit ancestral knowledge, such as birthing traditions, to my daughter. She has the constitutional right to continue these practices, if she chooses to do so, as did my great-grandmother, who gave birth to my grandmother in Kahana Valley, where her brother Nana now teaches lo‘i cultivation to the community. It is not enough to teach cultural practices to others, if they are being destroyed in our own ‘ohana. My daughter has the right to choose if she will give birth, where she will give birth, and with whom she will give birth, and she has the right not to have to fight for that right, as I am fighting today. I ask that you protect her rights, as is your duty, by voting “no” on this measure.

I also have the kuleana of laau lapaau traditions, passed on to me by my teacher, Master Healer Papa Henry Allen Auwae. This very sacred training includes birthing practices, and precludes licensure, which Papa Auwae stood firmly against as a healer. These traditions need protection. All of my laau lapaau brothers and sisters' practices need protection -- not licensing. I call on the Committee on Judiciary and Labor to protect all of us by voting "no" on this measure.

Our labor is one of aloha. The Committee on Judiciary and Labor needs to protect our work.

Committee on Judiciary and Labor, it is your obligation to vote NO on this measure.

All mothers need protection.

All cultures need protection.

All children need protection – not from those who have been successfully safeguarding their well-being with millennia-old practices that work very well (as evidenced by the presence of every single human on Earth today), but from the forces of coercive assimilation to a fear-based mentality that is destroying the 'āina as well as the collective cultural knowledge that is our future generations' only hope for continued survival.

I am also a peacemaker. I want to support positive, cooperative change that benefits everyone.

If the legislature wishes to make real positive change happen in the future, here is what I suggest:

- Facilitate communication between different styles of practice, without threat.
- Mandate hospitals – not home birth practitioners -- to increase respect and flexibility in women's birthing choices in general, and particularly in regard to cooperative, non-traumatic transfer of care in the event of an emergency transport.
- Recognize and support the excellent, brave, culturally competent, hard work being done by out-of-hospital birth practitioners. Build trust by refraining from persecution and blame, as are clearly implied in this measure.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Please contact me at any time.

Me ke aloha 'oia'ī'o nō,



Laulani Teale, MPH
(808)256-6637



I am writing in opposition to SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1.

Women have historically NOT given birth in hospitals - they have given birth at home in the comfort of their own bed, attended by an experienced midwife. The switch to hospital births has not led to better live birth stats, and in fact hospitalization INCREASES the risk of a secondary infection. But the bottom line is that giving birth is not a medical procedure requiring hospitalization, and the majority of births can take place at home, safely, with a midwife in attendance. If these bills pass, women will continue to give birth at home - only they will not have an experienced midwife to attend the birth. I fear that the result will be an increased infant mortality rate, and an increase in maternal death as well.

Please continue to respect womens rights when it comes to their bodies, and their birth. Women should be allowed to deliver where ever they feel most comfortable, and with a trained, experienced midwife in attendance. Midwives should be working with doctors as partners, with the same common goal - a healthy delivery of a healthy baby.

Thank you,

Vanessa Ghantous

February 10, 2014
Monday
1:30 PM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair - Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair - Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Simon Chang, MD

Re: SB 2065/SB2065SD1, Relating to Health

Position: Strongly support licensure, patient safety rules/regulations, informed consent, data collection, and establishment of a board to ensure Home Birth Safety in Hawaii as per Hawaii ACOG testimony

Dear Senators Green, Baker, Hee and members of the Committees on Health, Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Judiciary and Labor:

As a former Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, I have had to contend with complications arising from the care of home birth providers. As a result of substandard medical care, there have been repeated incidents of neonatal brain damage, permanent disability and death

I am very concerned about the safety of our mothers and their babies who opt for a planned home birth. The most recent and largest study to date reveals that there is a four-fold increased risk of neonatal death associated with home birth. In addition, there is a seven-fold increased risk of neonatal death for first time mothers who deliver at home and a ten – fold increased risk for pregnancies more than 41 weeks gestation. [Grunebaum A, Chervenak F, etal. Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Abstract. February 7, 2014.]

Currently, there is no licensure, and therefore no patient safety rules and regulations regarding home birth. There are many complications that can occur, particularly with high-risk pregnancies. However, even low-risk pregnancies can quickly, within a few minutes or even seconds, become high-risk during the labor and delivery process.

To ensure that all of Hawaii's mothers and babies have a safe and happy birth experience, I urge you to support the Home Birth Safety bill. This bill will ensure that home birth

providers have had formal obstetrics education to care for mothers and infants, follow patient safety regulations such as no high-risk pregnancy deliveries at home, adequately inform their patients regarding their educational background and the possible risks of home birth, and require the timely completion of birth certificates and other data for all planned home births.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on this very important Women's Health issue.

From: [Derek Kirbow](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#); [CPN Testimony](#); [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 2569 SD-1
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:59:29 PM

A rebuttal of raised concerns by those opposing SB 2569 SD-1

This testimony is in support of this bill and is refuting the testimony of others that have against the bill.

There have been objections raised over this bill and I would like to address the main complaints one at a time.

1. SB 2569/SD 1 will not guarantee home birth safety with over-regulation nor will it foster better collaborative care between providers, in the event of a hospital transfer.

Those that cite this are wrong on several fronts. First, they maintain that over-regulation will not guarantee home birth safety. This is, in their minds, saying that this bill has too many regulations and that there should therefore be less regulations. Lessening regulations will certainly not guarantee safety in home birth. This is a logical fallacy, a straw man argument. It is also maintained that this bill will not foster better collaborative care between providers in the event of a hospital transfer. If making home birth midwives legalized will not foster collaboration then there is little chance anything put into any bill will accomplish this. The first point they make is therefore a moot point.

2. SB 2569/SD 1 fosters fear and restricts the rights of families to deliver their keiki in settings that feel true to them and with the attendants they choose.

This argument is based on allowing women to have a birth in any place they want with whomever they want. What they are asking for is really no regulation. If there is ANY regulation whatsoever about who can or cannot deliver a baby in a home birth setting then by default it will "restrict the rights of families" to choose "the attendants they choose". Advocating no regulation is tantamount to keeping the status quo. This does not help the situation of home birth in Hawaii at all.

3. SB 2569/SD 1 unduly burdens the state with over-site and professional accountability that should be self-organized and self-governed by the midwives themselves who have set their own evidence based practice guidelines and understand the midwifery model of care the best.

This argument is basically suggesting the state should not have over-site of midwives at all as it is an "undue burden". Instead they want midwives to self-regulate. This is exactly the same situation we are in right now. This changes little, if anything, and has no way to allow midwives to actually hold one another accountable as it would thereby "restrict the rights of families...with the attendants they choose". They are asking for no regulation at all and no over-site.

4. SB 2569/SD 1 further endangers traditional practitioners of birth and cultural keepers of midwifery skill sets that are attempting to make a return through formalized apprentice model of learning.

The argument here is first about removing the right of midwives to learn through an apprenticeship model of care. The entire methodology for CPM's to get their certification under NARM is to go through an apprenticeship model. Since the bill is to make CPM's legal in attending home births and covers their students then this argument holds no validity. The second aspect of this argument is that "traditional practitioners" will not be covered. They are asking that anyone that wants to be called a midwife and

thinks they are a midwife and believes they are a midwife should be allowed to be a midwife. If specific qualifications are not necessary that are to be overseen by a board then why have the majority of the members of the MAH and other groups spent countless hours studying, training, taking exams, and so forth under the auspices of MANA, ACOG, the AMA, and NARM? It is specifically because these groups have over-site that is recognized nationally and shows they are competent. If traditional practitioners of birth want to practice in Hawaii this bill does not stop them; it simply says they need to show their competency through a group just like every other health care professional - from Naturopathic Doctors to CPM's to CNM's to MD's - does.

5. It is the right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth their child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. This bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose.

This is arguing that mothers should be allowed to have their birth anywhere with anyone and should not be regulated in any way. This in no way ensures the safety of the mother or the baby. This does nothing to protect women. Giving people the "right" to whatever they want whenever they want in any way they want means by definition there can be no over-site. There can be no group or board or commission of midwives, regulators, officials, or anyone else that can say "you cannot do this" as it would violate the "rights" of the mother. The MAH wants to have its own advisory board, but it would have zero force on anyone as it would regulate who could do what in birth and how they could do it thus infringing on rights.

The aspect of maternal child health cannot be an all or nothing proposition, there must be guidelines just as there are in everything else we do in society. We have collectively decided to join together in a community to give us certain protections, rights, and benefits. In exchange we have to follow the guidelines set forth in the community. Opponents to this bill would have us believe that we should have traffic laws, laws governing food safety, protections from pollution, and all manner of other regulations but that when it comes to the life of the mother and baby then there should be absolutely no over-site, no government intervention, and no regulation. It is the absolute opposite of safety in birth. As legislators it is indeed your responsibility to look out for the rights of individuals, but this must also be coupled with common sense. Allowing more women to have the option of home birth than they have now by legalizing several categories of midwives that currently are not legalized is the correct path to take. Defeat of this bill does the very thing these opponents say they oppose: it takes away choices and freedoms to choose from women across the state of Hawaii. You must, therefore, SUPPORT this bill.

Sincerely,

Derek Kirbow
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

IN OPPOSITION TO SB2569 SD1
From Sara Tekula, Makawao resident.

Dear Senators Baker, Green, Taniguchi, Hee, and Shimabukuro,

I am writing you this letter today as a new mother of a beautiful, healthy baby boy named Henry Koa. He is our joy and the joy of many in our Maui community and beyond.



Like many of my neighbors, friends and colleagues, when I learned I was expecting a baby, I began a long road of research. I am a well-known university professor and consultant working in the Maui community, and all who know me understand that when I research something, I take it all the way and leave no stone unturned.

I considered every option, including hospital birth. It was the tour of Maui Memorial Hospital (our only medical birth option on Maui) that sealed the deal for me. The environment there scared

me. The talk of available drugs (morphine, epidural) from the moment I arrived bordered on “drug pushing” and immediately turned me off, as I was committed to a 100% drug free birth experience for my son and myself. The inability for my husband to stay the night with me if my son was born after “visitor’s hours” just appalled me. The exorbitantly high cesarean section rate, induction rate, and drug administration at the Maui hospital was beyond the norm for the United States. The list goes on and on. The truth was, there are not enough options for birthing on Maui. This hospital was the only place I could go to birth with my family obstetrician. My husband and I were forced to make a choice.

After all of the research we did, I had my son at home, with the confidence of having two mature, well-educated certified midwives assisting me as I brought him into the world. I was in excellent hands: the women each had assisted in the natural delivery of 10-15 times more babies than any medical doctor currently practicing on Maui. They were consummate professionals who delivered impeccable care, held us all in the utmost safety, and kept highly detailed records of the entire experience.

I write you today because I know – from the research and from personal experience – homebirth is **SAFE**. It is as safe, if not *safer* than hospital birth. If safety is what you – our elected officials - are concerned about here, let’s study all birth options (home and hospital) to discern what is safe. Rather than pushing this bill through, can we talk about it and study it some more? Senator Green’s press release seems to indicate that he wants to learn more about home birth. Let’s learn together. Become educated, like I did. If you have not been involved in a home birth, how do you know?

I am a stickler for safety, so are my midwives and all of those in the homebirth community. Unfortunately this bill will not provide safety. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not up to the legislature to decide how and where someone can birth.

This bill also divides our homebirth community, because some forms of midwifery would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.

Please, let the home birth community form their OWN advisory counsel – not the one you are proposing with this bill. Let them gather their knowledge of the variety of types of birthing and to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

Please, can we work together on a solution that meets the needs of those of us who need to make healthy choices that are right for us and our families?

Mahalo for your time and attention.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: terez_lindsey@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:09:50 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terez Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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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To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor, Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229

RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

Thank you for the opportunity to OPPOSE Bills SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth.

I am a 39 year old woman who has had 2 hospital births, one at age 27, one at age 29, and 1 home birth at age 37. All three births were without complications to both mother and infant.

I oppose these bills on the foundation that the State of Hawaii, Legislature or any Advisory Board DOES NOT have the right to decide how and where a woman can give birth. In the name of safety this bill over-regulates women and families and restricts their rights to make informed choices about the delivery of their children.

The bill makes reference to statistics showing that neonatal deaths are much more prevalent in home birth settings. But are there also statistics that show the percentage of successful home births compared to successful hospital births? By successful meaning without medications, intervention, induction, cesarean section, fetal distress, severe vaginal tears and/or lacerations, post-partum physical problems for the mother, etc.. Indeed, things can go very wrong during a delivery, at home or at a hospital... they can also go very right. It would be worth entertaining the possibility that some informed women are choosing home birth because they see that for themselves the potential for "right" to better be achieved in a home birth setting rather than a hospital and are willing to accept that higher statistical risk.

Being informed is the key. It applies to the home birth community, the medical community and most importantly the mothers and families themselves. Everyone wants safety and the home birth community is not opposed to guidelines and a further unification of the community. However, these bills are premature. At least another year needs to be dedicated to learning about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Both models are valid and both are necessary to ensure that women are able to deliver their babies as safely as possible in the manner in which they CHOOSE. An advisory council should be represented by all birth practitioners (ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc.) who can form appropriate standards for practice. More time, research and cooperative education needs to take place before these standards can be formulated.

Thank you.

Sara L. Voll
PO Box 661
Waialua, HI 96791

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor

Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229

I, Noelani Love, opposed bill SV2569 and SB2569 D1 relating to homebirth.

I had a homebirth in Hawaii with my child, and I felt it was a very safe experience. I was in the comfortable setting of my home, with no medication, no IV, no bright lights, and no fetal heart monitor. I was monitored and comforted by my midwife, and my labor flowed beautifully and smoothly and I birthed my beautiful baby boy.

The ability to choose who was in attendance at my son's birth was very important to me. I had minimal family members, along with the midwife and her assistant, and I felt because of this calmness, I was able to birth my child naturally and without complications. I was not constantly interrupted by strangers (as nurses commonly are to a woman laboring in a hospital) checking me or poking me with needles, nor were there constant beeping noises or air conditioning.

I was able to move around my house as I felt necessary and use my own bathroom.

The midwife who I chose came highly recommended through friends and has been practicing for over 15 years and has extensive experience and training. If this bill becomes a law, the midwife who delivered my son would no longer be able to practice, although she is fully capable and an expert in her field.

Women have been birthing babies for thousands of years. It is a basic human right to be able to decide where a woman will birth her child and who she will be surrounded by.

Having a baby is a spiritual endeavor. Bringing life into the world is a religious experience. It is a constitutional right to have this religious freedom. It is unconstitutional for legislators to decide where and how a woman will give birth.

Sincerely,
Noelani Love

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: kalikoamona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:29:44 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaliko Amona	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: This bill goes too far in restricting homebirths. Regardless of regulation, women will continue to give birth at home and making it all but impossible for them to find a legal homebirth attendant will not make birth any safer. I will be present at the hearing and plan to share more there. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: devaki40@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:32:48 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Srimati Goodman-Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: 1. To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor, 2. Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229 3. RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth 4. Oppose 5. Four main points: A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated. B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislatures right to decide how and where someone can birth. C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for. D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: emmaharberwhite@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:33:11 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hrg: Senate Committee on Health/Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection/Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; Mon. February 10th 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Rm 229 Re: SB 2569 and SB2569 SD1, Relating to Home Birth – In Opposition Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition of SB 2569 and SB 2569 SD1, both of which attempt to regulate midwifery in the State of Hawaii. Here are some reasons why I OPPOSE SB2569 and SB2569 SD1: • Both bills take away choices for women when it comes to their reproductive health. • SB2569 threatens women's health and would all but make midwifery and home birth illegal in the state of Hawaii, forcing mothers who choose to home birth to potentially go underground in finding illegal care providers which may pose a risk to herself and her baby. The bill also infringes on patients' rights and violates their right to medical privacy. • Home birth with a trained midwife is SAFE. This bill uses false data to support it's claim. It refers to a two to three fold increase in neonatal mortality and that is cited from a study that has been refuted. Here are studies addressing that particular study, along with others that support home birth with a trained midwife to be just as safe as a hospital birth. (1,2,3,4,5) • We are not opposed to regulation – however the regulations in SB2569 don't make sense and neither bill promotes the health of mothers or their babies. • These bills do NOT take into account cultural practices in home birth. It must be viewed in the context of a cultural, traditional, spiritual belief and practice, which is protected by law. • The Home Birth Safety Board is also based on a medical model, and it does not reflect the culture and practice of home birth. It doesn't even reflect the participants of home birth practice. The Home Birth Safety Board should be autonomous from the Hawaii Medical Board. There should be a Home Birth Providers Board overseen directly by the DCCA . • The Home Birth Safety Board to be comprised of the home birth providers primarily, with some OB/MD representation but certainly not the majority or even half. • It is the right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth their child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. This bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose. Suggestions: Write a new bill next legislative session that addresses the concerns stated above and include home birth providers and key stakeholders in the birthing community when drafting new legislation. Amending SB2569 OR SB2569 SD1 is NOT an option.

Both bills are too flawed to correct given the time constraints of the legislature. A complete overhaul of these bills must ensue. There are many suggestions for a new bill, please let's work together to create it.. Thank you for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to testify. Aloha, YOUR NAME

Sources: 1. "Home Birth versus Hospital Birth: Questioning the Quality of the Evidence on Safety" article published in Birth (Volume 30, Issue 1, pages 57-63, March 2003) "In contrast, the Midwives Association of Washington State press release stated that 'Childbearing women and health policy makers should be made aware that the study contains numerous flaws and limitations...this study alone should not be used to make decisions that could restrict women's choice of birth place or access to birth attendants with expertise in home birth'" (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../j.1523-536X.../abstract>) 2. Planned Home vs Hospital Birth: A Meta-Analysis Gone Wrong, Medscape Ob/Gyn & Women's Health 4/1/2011 (<http://cfpcwp.com/.../Medscape-Wax-Critique-Michal...>) 3. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse - Vital Statistics Hawaii (<http://www.hhdw.org/cms/index.php?page=vital-statistics>) 4. BMJ 2005;330;1416 Outcomes of planned home birth with certified professional midwives; large prospective study in North America 5. BJOG, 2009 Aug; 116(9):1177-84 Perinatal mortality and morbidity in a nationwide cohort of 529,688 low risk planned home and hospital births 6. The Myth of a Safer Hospital Birth for Low Risk Pregnancies (<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/.../myth-safer-hsopital-birth...>) "Study validity questioned" in The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (volume 204, Issue 4, page e14, April 2011) ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(10\)01107-5/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(10)01107-5/fulltext)) 7. Home birth metaanalysis: does it meet AJOG's reporting requirements? ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00074-3/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00074-3/fulltext)) 8. International data demonstrate home birth safety. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21458614>) 9. "Home birth triples the neonatal death rate": public communication of bad science? ([http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00075-5/abstract](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00075-5/abstract)) 10. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23769011> 11. <http://www.bmj.com/content/330/7505/1416> 12. Outcomes of Care for 16,924 Planned Home Births in the United States: The Midwives Alliance of North America Statistics Project, 2004 to 2009 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jmwh.12172/pdf>

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: shari@globalnetproductions.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:15:59 PM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shari Lienau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Senator Green's Bill, SB 2569 SD-1. As a new resident of the islands, I believe that the citizens of Hawaii should have a voice in their own medical choices as this Bill outlines. It reveals the need for increased quality and availability of birth care across the Hawaiian Islands. It also provides women more options for their health care using a common sense approach to meet a growing demand for access. More than 2/3 of all the US' states are already allowing midwives to perform safe home births under guidelines that are considered Best Practices by multiple organizations including MANA, NARM, ACOG, and the AMA. Bill SB 2569 and the SD-1 corollary increase access, provide a set of guidelines that previously were a gray area, give greater choice to women, and legitimize a practice that hundreds of women are already choosing while providing for safety and meeting the needs of a growing population that currently does not have adequate options. As an informed mother with six teenage daughters, I strongly support this bill.

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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**Tod C. Aeby, MD, MEd
1319 Punahou St. #801
Honolulu, HI, 96826**

**February 10, 2014
Monday
1:30 PM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol**

**To: Senator Josh Green, Chair - Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair - Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

From: Tod C. Aeby, MD, MEd, FACOG

Re: SB2569 (and SB2569SD1), Relating to Health

**Position: Strongly support SB2569 with the amendment proposed by the Hawaii
Section of ACOG to include Certified Professional Midwives (CPM)**

Oppose SB2569SD1, as written.

Dear Senators Green, Baker, Hee and members of the Committees on Health, Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Judiciary and Labor:

As a practicing OB/GYN on the faculty at Hawaii's main obstetric referral hospital, I ask that you support the original bill SB2569, with amendments, instead of SB2569SD1 for the safety of all of Hawaii's mothers, and babies, that choose to deliver at home (SB2569SD1 seems only to apply to CPMs, and there are several provider categories that would be excluded from the intended patient safety measures). Medical literature clearly demonstrates an increased risk of neonatal death associated with planned home birth (4 times increased risk when compared to hospital births), and at the very least we should have home birth patient safety measures in place.

I have read the Hawaii Section of ACOG's testimony and I am in complete support of their position.

As OB/GYN faculty at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, we are frequently placed in the position of caring for mothers and their neonates after attempted home births. Far too many times we have seen misguided plans to deliver extremely high-risk pregnancies in settings far removed from the safety net of a modern

obstetrics unit. While the American College of OB/GYN recommends that all deliveries occur in a hospital or certified birthing center, they do recognize the right of a mother to choose. The main purpose of this bill should be to make sure that providers offering home birth have the proper training and experience to recognize high-risk situations and to properly inform the pregnant couple about the risks and benefits of their decision. It would also provide tools for monitoring home birth statistics.

A few months ago, I rounded on a couple that was devastated by the loss of their child after an attempt to deliver a known breech (okole first) infant on the North Shore of Oahu. The labor went badly and once they realized the baby was in trouble, they called an ambulance. Unfortunately, they were well over an hour away from help. This perfectly normal infant was ultimately delivered with severe brain damage and died on the second day. When I saw this grieving couple, I wondered if they were truly informed about risks they were taking. I wondered what possible benefit they, and their provider, thought they would gain from home delivery that would make risking this horrible tragedy worth it.

Please, let's work to make this, and the numerous other tragic outcomes of home birth that I have witnessed, rare or never events!

Thank you for your efforts to keep our moms and keiki safe through support of this bill!

Oppose SB2569 & SB2569 SD1

Hearing Date: Feb 10, 2014, 1:30p.m., conference room 229

To: Honorable Chair & Committee Members of Health, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection and Judiciary & Labor,

I am writing to oppose SB2569 & SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth. As a woman and mother it is my right to be able to choose the model of care that is best for my family. For myself and many other women, pregnancy and giving birth is a spiritual and cultural journey, one that is supported by the midwifery model of care and can unfortunately be hindered by the medical model. I have a right to choose.

If our legislature genuinely cares about the safety of our mothers and children, then ALL members should be formally educated in various birth options from hospital, to home, to birthing center. In addition, our legislatures should investigate the rising rates of c-sections, inductions, and the effects of various medications that are routinely offered in hospitals. Most importantly, our legislature should be educated in the differences between a midwifery model of care and a medical model of care.

It is not the right of the legislature to decide where, how, and with whom a woman wishes to give birth. My husband and I made an informed, evidence-based decision to bring our child into this world in the privacy of our home with intimacy and care. I knew that I would be successful being in a place with people who supported and understood my beliefs and needs as a spiritual birthing mother. I was able to call upon my inner strength... inspired by all women who have birthed before me... and my higher power to bring my child into this world.

My home birth was the most loving and spiritual experience that my husband and I were able to share privately. I am so thankful to my midwife and doula who provided the model of maternity care that our family needed.... a model centered around love, nurturing, mutual respect, education, and care... Please do not take this freedom away from us and our future mothers.

Although home birth is not for every woman... Every woman has the **right to choose** ... our ancestors have been giving birth naturally with a loving sisterhood of maternity care for centuries. We must continue to allow women to birth in communion with their mind, body, spirit, ancestors, and higher power. Our body... our right...

The home birth community is unified and wants all practitioners to be included to provide support for all the different types of birth experiences our community needs. Unfortunately this bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery and home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill.

The legislature needs to allow the home birth community to form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

Oppose SB2569 & SB2569 SD1

Hearing Date: Feb 10, 2014, 1:30p.m., conference room 229

Please please please say NO to Bill SB2569 regarding Homebirth regulations and laws. Please do NOT criminalize our home birth midwives, please to NOT steal away our right as woman and mothers to birth in spiritual communion. Please respect our choices... mind, body, spirit.

Your support for the rights of all women are needed!!!!

REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

For: Honorable Senate Committee Health Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members,

Hearing February 10, 2014, 1:30 P.M., Rm 229

RE: **SB 2569 Relating to Home Birth - IN OPPOSITION**

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Roland Lee. I am a social worker for the State of Hawaii, and I have been advocating for social justice for the clients that I have served for over 20 years. I am also a father of two healthy children who were home birthed with our naturopathic physician/midwife. Although the intent of Bills SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 was written to protect the birthing community, it also has several indirect, implicated outcomes that will marginalizes all women's rights if passed into law. Therefore, I respectfully oppose SB 2569.

Firstly, it takes away choices for women regarding where and with whom they can give birth.

Secondly, Bills SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 intends to **regulate very heavily** who can be a midwife, how midwives practice, and who will be allowed to call upon midwives. The nature of the proposed midwife certification process, its educational requirements, the fees to be charged, and the appointed medical Board, are unreasonable non-specific standards that will make it impossible for the handful of already qualified midwives to attain certification before July 1, 2015, if it is signed into law. The **heavy regulation** would indirectly abolish midwifery completely in Hawaii and thereby take away every woman's choice to birth where and with whom they wish by that the majority, if not all, births happen in a hospital setting.

It should also be noted that the majority of the world population for the last thousands of generations have been giving birth outside of a hospital or medical setting, and it is only for the last two generations have hospitals become the common birthing place in the United States. With the current world population approaching 7 billion people, the majority of people presently living today have been born

outside of a hospital setting with the help of either a midwife or someone with birthing knowledge versus with hospital staff.

According to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, on April 25, 2013, “A Honolulu motorcycle police officer delivered a baby girl at the height of the morning commute on the H-1 Freeway this morning.” This one instance locally illustrates that a woman will give birth with or without a doctor, and that birthing and delivering a child can still be a natural and safe process without such proposed regulations. In theory, Bills SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 were drafted with good intention to standardize and make birthing safer, however, they are not valid or sound in practice. While it is useful and necessary to have guidelines, or standards of practice, it is just as important to create them so that they are reasonable, fair, and realistic to execute.

While these Bills question the safety of home births, it cannot be overlooked that bad outcomes also occur at hospitals, and it is untrue that every hospital experience is safe, or safer, than a home birth experience. If members of the U.S. mainstream medical-model serve as the appointed regulators of midwifery through Bills SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1, then the tradition and culture, not to mention the profession itself, of midwifery will be lost. Midwives as well as those who honor and uphold this time-honored tradition and culture of midwifery come from a perspective that birthing is and can be a calm, gentle, and natural experience, versus approaching birth as a crisis, or a medical procedure that demands intervention, drugs, and surgery. The biggest tragedy in this circumstance would be if midwifery becomes consumed by medical regulation that it cannot be practiced to its fullest scope and integrity.

I thank the Honorable Senator Josh Green and the Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker for their concern in this matter and for the time that was put into drafting these Bills. I also challenge this committee to do international research about midwifery and the natural birthing processes in first world countries such as Europe and Japan and to bring forth those findings before voting any Bill related to midwifery into law.

A Petition to Kill S. B. No. 2569 in Hawaii

S. B. No. 2569 which has recently been introduced and concerns regulation and licensure of home birth midwives contains dangerously incorrect information and is a health and safety hazard to mothers and babies as well as a transgression on mothers' medical, religious and constitutional rights. It is harmful to women and their families, creates a monopoly in healthcare and will eradicate the safe practice of home birth and midwifery in Hawaii.

To begin, S. B. No. 2569 specifically states "The legislature also finds that national data reports a two to three fold increased risk of neonatal mortality with planned home birth versus hospital birth." (Section 1, paragraph 2) In fact, it is well and widely known that international data supports the fact that planned home birth has similar if not better outcomes than planned hospital births.

This wildly incorrect assumption that home birth has a threefold increase in neonatal mortality is based entirely off of a single study entitled *Maternal and newborn outcomes in planned home birth vs planned hospital births: a metaanalysis* (Joseph R. Wax, MD. et al) which, since its publication, has been well and widely discredited due to its incorrect data and substandard data analysis.

An article by Carl A. Michal, PhD, Patricia A. Janssen, PhD, Saraswathi Vedam, SciD, Eileen K. Hutton, PhD, Ank de Jonge, PhD entitled "Planned Home vs Hospital Birth: A Meta-Analysis Gone Wrong" and published on MedScape reads:

"The highly charged debate over the safety of home birth was inflamed by the publication of a meta-analysis by Joseph R. Wax and coworkers, which concluded that "less medical intervention during planned home birth is associated with a tripling of the neonatal mortality rate." The statistical analysis upon which this conclusion was based was deeply flawed, containing many numerical errors, improper inclusion and exclusion of studies, mischaracterization of cited works, and logical impossibilities. In addition, the software tool used for nearly two thirds of the meta-analysis calculations contains serious errors that can

dramatically underestimate confidence intervals (CIs), and this resulted in at least 1 spuriously statistically significant result. Despite the publication of statements and commentaries querying the reliability of the findings, this faulty study now forms the evidentiary basis for an American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee Opinion, meaning that its results are being presented to expectant parents as the state-of-the-art in home birth safety research." (<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/739987>)

Yet another statement issued by Gill Gyte, Trainer in Research Methodology, NCT; Mary Newburn, Head of Research and Information, NCT; Alison Macfarlane, Professor of Perinatal Health, Department of Midwifery and Child Health, City University London entitled "Critique of a meta-analysis by Wax and colleagues which has claimed that there is a three-times greater risk of neonatal death among babies without congenital anomalies planned to be born at home" states:

"In summary, NCT has found that this study has serious methodological limitations, including:

- Insufficient detail about the assessment of the quality of the primary research papers identified by the authors and their specific reasons for inclusion or exclusion of each study.
 - Lack of information about the included studies, and the specific data contributed by each one to the outcomes under investigation. Scrutiny of the primary research papers has led to somewhat different numbers being identified. (A 'forest plot' should have been included.)
- Lack of clarity and consistency about the definition of neonatal mortality in each of the included studies, including whether stillbirth data were included.
- The small size of the sub-group contributing to the calculation of comparative risk of neonatal death for planned home birth and planned hospital birth. It has been suggested that 200-400 adverse events are needed in order to be confident of avoiding a systematic error of insufficient data, but there were just 64 neonatal deaths reported by Wax for all neonatal mortality and 37 for non-analogous neonatal mortality.
 - A number of the non-randomised studies included in the meta-analysis were not matched

for confounding risk factors nor had adjustments been made to data afterwards, and some included women at increased risk of complications.

On the basis of these limitations, it is completely unjustifiable to claim that 'Less medical intervention during planned home birth is associated with a tripling of the neonatal mortality rate'. On the basis of the poor quality data of their data, the authors should not have reached this conclusion. Furthermore, the editors of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology should not have accepted the paper for publication without major modifications."
(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/34065092/Critique-of-a-meta-analysis-by-Wax>)

And an article published in Birth (Volume 30, Issue 1, pages 57-63, March 2003) entitled "Home Birth versus Hospital Birth: Questioning the Quality of the Evidence on Safety also discusses the flaws with the study, saying:

"In contrast, the Midwives Association of Washington State press release stated that 'Childbearing women and health policy makers should be made aware that the study contains numerous flaws and limitations...this study alone should not be used to make decisions that could restrict women's choice of birth place or access to birth attendants with expertise in home birth'" (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1046/j.1523-536X.2003.00218.x/abstract>)

Other reviews of this study include the following:

"Study validity questioned" in *The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* (volume 204, Issue 4, page e14, April 2011) ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(10\)01107-5/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(10)01107-5/fulltext))

Home birth metaanalysis: does it meet AJOG's reporting requirements? ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00074-3/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00074-3/fulltext))

International data demonstrate home birth safety. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21458614>)

“Home birth triples the neonatal death rate”: public communication of bad science? ([http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00075-5/abstract](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00075-5/abstract))

In truth, there is no study that can correctly claim that home birth is any greater risk than hospital birth. This study has consistently been used as ACOG's last line of defense for political gain in the face of rising rates of home birth and other studies which show that home birth results in equal if not better outcomes than hospital birth and with less intervention and neonatal and maternal morbidity.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23769011>

<http://www.bmj.com/content/330/7505/1416>

" There was no evidence that planned home birth among low risk women leads to an increased risk of severe adverse maternal outcomes in a maternity care system with well trained midwives and a good referral and transportation system." (<http://www.bmj.com/content/346/bmj.f3263>)

In Hilo, obstetricians are notoriously anti-homebirth and they will never allow any patient to seek birth outside of the hospital. I can personally attest to this as I have experienced the hostility towards women and home birth first hand. After being admitted to the hospital after the birth of my second child, I was specifically denied present and future medical care by all obstetricians in the area because I had had a home birth. One would not even come to the hospital to treat me.

This is the care that you will be subjecting women to if S.B. 2569 is passed. Women have no choice of obstetrician in an area where OBs are extremely limited and who, by reason of geographical location, have no other options available to them. Hawaii is unique in the fact that the state is a series of islands and women cannot, therefore, easily travel outside of their area to seek other medical care or care providers who are willing to consider their choice to home birth.

This bill gives the false idea that it will be improving midwifery care for home birthing mothers by allowing the medical board to regulate them. The truth is that it puts women in a dangerous position. The number of midwives able to practice will be drastically reduced to fewer than five in the entire state, nowhere near enough to handle the load of over 450 (461 according to the CDC's report for the state of Hawaii in 2010:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_11.PDF) women who choose practitioners outside of a hospital each year.

In states where midwifery is illegal, women still choose midwife care in secret and do not report their midwives as having attended their births. This fear of the law may cause harm to women and babies in cases where illegally practicing midwives fear to transport their clients to the hospital in a timely manner for fear of being found out. Parents may also be less inclined to seek medical attention in hospital when necessary because of fear of legal retaliation for having seen a midwife. Home birthing women will be forced underground and will be put in danger by being made to feel as though they must deal with higher risk situations alone because of fear of persecution if they transport.

And if the legislative body finds home birth without a midwife is more risky than home birth with a midwife (and I do not agree that it is) then it is pertinent to reason that this bill will endanger women who refuse obstetric care on any grounds by forcing them to birth at home alone and with no care provider at all. As one who is a member of several groups of women who choose to birth without an attendant, I can attest to the fact that many women who choose to give birth with no doctor or midwife are driven to do so specifically because midwives are illegal in their area. We have already seen increasing numbers of women seeking vaginal births after cesarean at home because there is a ban on VBAC at our hospital. This bill will push more

women to leave obstetric care for situations which obstetricians would themselves consider to be risky (whether or not they truly are).

Mothers who choose home birth are not looking for a standard medical practice modeled on obstetric care. They desire to exercise their right to choose a care provider who will be open to the level of intervention that they choose. S.B. 2569 violates the rights of women who choose home birth because they desire less interventive care than is used in hospital and it takes away a woman's choice to birth safely where and how she likes.

The bill, if introduced, will also infringe on the rights of women who have been sexually assaulted to refuse certain care by an OB which exposes them to further emotional abuse.

Doctors are not required to (and do not) inform women of the dangers of giving birth in hospital or of the risks of any medical procedure which may be performed necessarily or unnecessarily during her pregnancy or her birth. (Hospital birth is associated with higher risk of intervention, higher risk of cesarean section, higher risk of maternal mortality and higher risk of fetal and maternal morbidity than is associated with home birth.)¹ Why, then, is it logical to insist that women be forced to sign a form stating that they have been informed of the risks of home birth? This bill violates not only a woman's right to make her own medical decisions but also violates her right to informed consent as it unnecessarily places heavy bias against home birth and will, by choice of obstetrician, criminalize a woman's decision to birth out of hospital.

1. ("Planned home birth attended by a registered midwife was associated with very low and comparable rates of perinatal death and reduced rates of obstetric interventions and other adverse perinatal outcomes compared with planned hospital birth attended by a midwife or physician." - Outcomes of planned home birth with registered midwife versus planned hospital birth with midwife or physician by Patricia A. Janssen, PhD et al. CMAJ. 2009 September; 181(6-7): 377–383. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2742137/>)

Giving control of home birth to obstetricians is akin to giving Monsanto control and regulation of the organic food industry. It entirely defeats the purpose of home birth which is to have the choice of being independent of obstetrics except in case of emergency.

In another letter regarding S.B. 2569, it was said that the bill will "Violate women's medical privacy by requiring home birth providers to report a woman's 'intent to give birth at home' to the State Department of Health, potentially endangering women by exposing their private medical information to partners or family members who don't agree with their birth choices."

Many mothers choose home birth for religious reasons. It is unconstitutional to deny women their right to choose a religious midwife for home birth for religious reasons as it goes against the first amendment which states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

The California College of Midwives states: " Women have a constitutional right to have an experienced, non-medical helper of their choice present in their home during the normal spontaneous events of physiological childbearing...Home-birth parents and home-based practitioners must persistently and consistently challenge this unconstitutional monopoly of normal maternity care. The history of a 100 Years war against midwifery is most recently evidenced in exclusive supervisory language that continues to criminalize both traditional and nurse-midwifery practice without obstetrician supervision while legally permitting physicians to withhold this statutorily-mandated participation with immunity. Domiciliary maternity care depends upon establishing the constitutional right of us as childbearing families to utilize an experienced (non-medical) helper of our choice. It may be necessary to legally establish that prosecution of non-medical midwives is an unconstitutional restraint of trade and an unfair business practice.

" Since our incorporation as a United States territory up to this present time, childbirth has been and remains to this day statutorily neutral — NO LAWS constrain the manner, the place or the persons able to provide non-medical assistance to childbearing women. *The Medical Practices Act does NOT identify normal childbirth as a medical, pathological, abnormal or risky condition*, no statute mandates that childbirth be attended by medically-trained persons OR that attendance at childbirth by non-medical persons is a criminal offense. [No] valid statute forbids parents from choosing an experienced helper of their choice NOR does any statute restrict non-medical birth assistance to state certified medical care providers."

It is insulting to imply that home birth mothers are ignorant and/or do not care for the welfare of

their child and that no mother is capable of making healthcare decisions either for herself or her baby. In a society where hospital birth is the norm and fear of death in childbirth is universally taught, it is irrational to expect that mothers who choose to birth at home with the care provider of their choice do so out of laziness or lack of education. On the contrary, hospital birth is the norm and home birth the choice of mothers who have invested time and thought and made a decision based on a far superior level of research than a mother who simply chooses a hospital birth by default.

The decision should be left in the hands of mothers who have heavily weighed their options and act in the interest of themselves and their child as opposed to obstetricians who act in the best interest of their business

	Name	From	Comments
1.	Amber Seber	Keaau, HI	
2.	Leilea Satori	Paauilo, HI	
3.	Jess Alexander	Pahoa, HI	
5.	Heather Gilbert	Volcano, HI	
6.	Ye Nguyen	haleiwa, HI	
7.	Hillary Washburn	Hilo, HI	I am a home-birth Mom in opposition to Bill No. 2569
8.	Alina Kealoha-Kawaguchi	Hilo, HI	
9.	Jordan Massey	Bessie, OK	
10.	Steffany Kerr	Honolulu, HI	
11.	heather fisher	lindale, TX	
12.	Tailani Morse	Keaau, HI	
13.	Vanessa Hunt-Jansen	Honolulu, HI	
14.	Maggie Phelps	Cortland, NY	
15.	Heidi Semanie	Honolulu, HI	
16.	T Stone	Phoenix, AZ	
17.	Chelsea Johnson	Provo, UT	Don't legislate our births! Allow moms the right and dignity to choose the type of birth they want.
18.	Cassidy Schmidt	Mt.view, HI	
19.	Summer McCreless	Town Creek, AL	Kill SB2569. Women need more options, not less.
20.	Jasmin Wampler	Lake City, CO	

	Name	From	Comments
21.	Alicia Hunt	Fairbanks, AK	We have a right to determine the type of birth that we want. We don't need someone else's approval.
22.	Amanda Doyle	Allenford, Canada	Midwives need to be protected! For the sake of all women and their babies!
23.	Amelia Raposo	Spotsylvania, VA	
24.	Rebecca Bonker	Davenport, NY	
25.	Annie Compton	Eskridge, KS	If midwives are so wrong, then why are so many developed countries using them with BETTER mortality rates than OURS? Your data is flawed. Protect midwives; give mothers a choice--a choice that which has been proven safe in many other studies!
26.	Molly Howard-Crow	Murphysboro, IL	
27.	Annie Craver	Keaau, HI	
28.	Joshua Compton	Eskridge, KS	
29.	D Riva	Ottawa, Canada	
30.	Priscilla Galvan	Hilo, HI	
31.	Jacqueline De La Garza	Mountain Viee, HI	
32.	Kim Arakawa	Hilo, HI	
33.	Candace Jacob	Sandy, UT	I am a student midwife. I have plans to move to Hawaii in the future. What this bill will effectively do is remove choices from moms and babies and force them into a specific choice. Women need more rights over their own births, not less. Women in Hawaii especially do not have the luxury to travel to another state (without much cost and difficulty) to give birth the way they choose. Please honor the freedom of mothers and the midwives who care for them.
34.	Gabriella Price	Everett, WA	
35.	Kelley Chaplain	Ponchatoula, LA	
36.	Brittney Gonzalez	Bluffdale, UT	
37.	travis delimont	pahoa, HI	
38.	Lisa Cobham	Smiths Falls, Canada	
39.	Melissa Moats	pepeekeo, HI	
41.	Greyson Adams	Westhaven, CA	
42.	Kupono McDaniel	keaau, HI	
43.	Michelle Sorrells	pleasant grove, UT	
44.	Lydia Carter	Hilo, HI	
45.	Dax Gilbert	Volcano, HI	
46.	Joseph Carter	Hilo, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
47.	kimberly finger	hilo, HI	
48.	Adriana Duerr	Hilo, HI	I am a home-birth mom and a home-birth grandma. Mothers in Hawaii need more choice in their planned birthing options, not less.
49.	Megan Kanekoa	Wailuku, HI	
50.	Ismail Al Ahmad	Beirut, Lebanon	
51.	Janelle Bega	Tehachapi, CA	
52.	Carissa Dwelly-Marshall	Atascadero, CA	
53.	Jenn Folino	Tucson, AZ	
54.	Vanda Epstein	ojai, CA	
55.	Jane Hansen	Hilo, HI	
56.	Katy Benjamin	Hilo, HI	All women deserve the right to decide how they wish their children to enter this world. Please reconsider Bill 2569 and be more inclusive. Not every women has to have a home birth, not every woman has to have a hospital birth. Woman in Hawaii do not have the freedoms to drive across state lines when they go into labor. Let's take this historic time in the healthcare system to look at other systems that work better, and see how we can learn from midwifery both in the USA and abroad.
57.	Melody Euaparadorn	Papaikou, HI	
58.	Meghan Elimon	Hilo, HI	
59.	Lillie Basilio	Waikoloa, HI	
60.	Atalanta Robertson	Honolulu, HI	One baby born in hospital - unadulterated nightmare of unprofessional, uncaring etc hideous experience. Two babies born at home - one was heavenly experience, the other super fast but so glad we could sleep in my bed at home afterwards...NOT necessary to legislate further here - enough checks & precautions already - LEAVE WELL ALONE, LEAVE US OUR WELL-INFORMED CHOICE
61.	Vicky Pitchford	Toronto, Canada	
62.	Aviva Dutt	Honolulu, HI	
63.	Sorte Christina	Pahoa, HI	
64.	Lokelani Ramos	Mountain View, HI	
65.	Margaux Mellott	Hakalau, HI	Next time you write a bill- ask the people it will effect before you push it through.
66.	Marsha Lowery	makawao, HI	
67.	Amicheli Salyer	Ocean View, HI	
68.	Megan Greer	Honolulu, HI	
69.	Ceilidh Cook	Hilo, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
70.	Natasha Salgado	Toronto, Canada	
72.	Ruth Moss	Hilo, HI	
73.	Jill Raznov	Hilo, HI	
74.	Cindy Kalani	Hilo, HI	
75.	Michelle Ream	Wahiawa, GU	
76.	Shannon Weissman	Honolulu, HI	
77.	Rebecka Gullberg	Trångsund, Sweden	
78.	Bill C	Kempton, Germany	
79.	Judy Talamantes	Pomona, CA	
80.	Laura Saxon	Morrison, FL	
81.	Crystal Beitler	Cynthiana, KY	
82.	John Brewer	Marietta, OH	
83.	Kathy g	Wiltshire, United Kingdom	
84.	Candace Snapp	Wheaton, IL	
85.	Stacey Calvert	Sunderland, United Kingdom	
86.	Alexis Zamchick	Flushing, NY	
87.	vincent sajor	honolulu, HI	
88.	Canice Lighthall	Derry, PA	
89.	Tana Bryant	Rogersville, AL	
91.	Kelli Bolger	Keaau, HI	
92.	Diane Kessler	Merrick, NY	
93.	Kaiulani Matsumoto	Pahoa, HI	
94.	Gloria Watson	Lexington, KY	
95.	rose wilde	port townsend, WA	it is imperative to keep mothers birth rights intact
96.	Brynn Geer	Kailua Kona, HI	
97.	Leilani Digmon	lahaina, HI	
98.	Grace Caligtan	Honolulu, HI	Every single person has arrived on this planet from a lineage of home birth. Hawai'i own Senator Akaka was born out home. Under the proposed legislation, pregnant women will be required to register their planned home birth. That stigma is like creating a scarlet letter for exercising one's own bodily autonomy and choice. NO to Bill 2569. This law is a major fail that does not understand the standards of midwife practitioners or the women they serve.

	Name	From	Comments
99.	Jane Rittenhouse	Eugene, OR	Home birth is both safe, and practical. Let it be a family's choice. Do not legislate away the family's right to choose.
100.	Bethel Belisle	Cottage Grove, OR	I am asking that you do not support this outrageous bill making homebirth and midwifery care illegal in Hawaii. Please protect women's rights to choose where and with whom to have their babies!
101.	Michelle Leland	Honolulu, HI	
102.	Scott malis	pahoa, HI	
103.	tanya Boughton	Eugene, OR	I was a resident of Hawaii when I had my first child in '86 at home with a midwife. It was a wonderful experience and I an distressed to think this will not be an option anymore in Hawaii. Please let women decide for themselves how they want to give birth, as they have been able to since time began. it is our inalienable right, and should be decided by women.
104.	Glenn Lagman	Hilo, HI	
105.	Rachel Thornton	Kailua Kona, HI	
106.	Celeste Groenenberg	Maple Valley, WA	
107.	Rosanna Waller	Holualoa, HI	
108.	April Haskins	Vancouver, WA	
109.	Rebecca Hurdis	Davenport, CA	
110.	Melissa Wilmarth	Pearl City, HI	
111.	Laurie Bauers	Hakalau, HI	I have had my birth at home with Dr. Hahn and I am a long time patient and supporter of Naturopathic Medicine. I respectfully ask that you oppose this bill in its current form for the following reasons. Natural Childbirth at home has been a part of Naturopathic Medicine and included in our Hawaii Statute (Chapter 455 created in 1925) for about 90 years. This statute currently contains excellent standards of practice which are continually scrutinized and revised to meet the needs of our time. In addition, there are many other states like ours where natural childbirth is included in the scope of practice of Naturopathic Physicians. We ask, where is the EVIDENCE?? There is no current clear EVIDENCE that natural childbirth at home needs to be regulated further, looking at both historical and current studies, and the fact that when comparing home and hospital birthing there has not been any proven significant increase in mortality or morbidity in natural birth at home. Looking at our specific local statistics, home births show <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
111.	Laurie Bauers	Hakalau, HI	<p><i>(continued from previous page)</i></p> <p>the lowest mortality risk outcome group: (Data from Hawaii Dept of Vital Statistics and Dept of Health, Office of Health Status monitoring)</p> <p>Hawaii= 18,000 total births/year (2300 Big Island) Vital Statistics DATA HAWAII</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. average fetal deaths/year: average per year from 2004-2011=1000 per year (5.5%) 2. hawaii C-section rate: 25% of births in hawaii Big island, 30% Oahu 25% 3. 345 home births/2012 year ... total fetal deaths 2004-2013=
112.	Madina Lawlis	Honolulu, HI	The birth of our daughter at home with my midwife and doula was the most amazing experience that my husband and I have ever shared. We plan on having all of our future babies at home as well. We pray that this ridiculous and non-evidence based piece of legislation does not pass,
113.	Maggie Hay-Gerber	Holualoa, HI	
114.	Ashely Zetamora	Eugene, OR	
115.	Jewel Knight	Hilo, HI	
116.	Hannah Fabiani	Las Vegas, NV	
117.	Maeve Medhurst	Tiverton, United Kingdom	Home birth is a human, woman's and mother's right.
118.	Audrey Alvarez	Honolulu, HI	
119.	Kathy Bellomy	Dayton, OH	Bill No. 2569 would marginalize a growing group of women of who choose to experience the most important time in their lives outside of hospital doors. The state of Hawaii is concerned for the health and well-being of their pregnant population as evidenced by showing concern for the mortality and morbidity. Rather than taking out of hospital births away from women, which has equal favorable outcomes to that of hospital births, improve the system of prenatal care, delivery, and postpartum care to all women irregardless of place of delivery. This bill is a scare tactic for those who do not know what truth the research holds which is low interventions of out of hospital births both home and birth center are as safe if not safer than the births in the hospitals.
120.	Amy Blacklaw	Pearl City, HI	
121.	James Blacklaw	Pearl City, HI	
122.	Yardley Roberts	Keaau, HI	
123.	Sherie McMillan	Mountain View, HI	
124.	Allison Fulcher	Oceanside, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
125.	sandra griffin	wahiawa, HI	
126.	tiffany chambers	Wahiawa, HI	
127.	Quincy Bates	Yucca Valley, CA	Please do not regulate the basic right to be able to choose your care provider and where you want your care done. The Wax study is HUGELY misinterpreted and not accurate at all.
128.	Kathryn Weaver	Wahiawa, HI	
129.	Ramona Hussey	Honolulu, HI	I gave birth to all three of my children AT HOME and with a MIDWIFE. As did both my sisters, my mother, and her mother. Birthing our babies at home and with a midwife is our right as a woman and mother.
130.	Laura Acasio	Hilo, HI	
131.	Aimee Williams	marion, IL	
132.	Sue Kinsey	Honolulu, HI	
133.	Dii Karnga	Honolulu, HI	
134.	Chloe Raum	Harvest, AL	
135.	Mya Olson	Bradley, SD	
136.	eno gerard	hilo, HI	
137.	nicole Hundrup	kihei, HI	
138.	ulla siewert	offenbach, Germany	
139.	Stacey Lindberg	Kapaa, HI	
140.	Mandie Decambra	Mountain View, HI	
141.	Valerie DeLap	Anchorage, AK	
142.	Linda Almond	Honolulu, HI	
143.	Alonna Soderberg	Springfield, OR	
144.	Stephanie Erickson	Moorhead, MN	
145.	Melissa Elliott	Holualoa, HI	
146.	joni sadler	captain cook, HI	
147.	Nalani Sato	Pearl City, HI	
148.	Kelly Salling-Davies	Peyton, CO	This is ridiculous! Kill this bill! Women have a right to give birth at home and the c-section rate is way down for such births. MUCH safer.
149.	Emilie Ashby	Springville, UT	
150.	Kelly Shinn	Moses lake, WA	
151.	Darby Louise Partner CPM LDM	Kealahakua, HI	Protect HUMAN RIGHTS in CHILDBIRTH. Do not allow SB2569 to pass. Instead SUPPORT MIDWIVES who are IMPROVING BIRTH for the mother's of the Hawaiian Islands. Mahalo nui.

	Name	From	Comments
152.	monique abbonizio	san diego, CA	
153.	Nicole Leszczynski	Honolulu, HI	The legislature is attempting to regulate birth practitioners on the basis of a study which is inherently flawed. What the birth community NEEDS is evidence-based maternity care, and access to care that respects their dignity and informed choices. Women are not cattle to be herded into hospitals and forced into a model of care that is based on profits and liability concerns. We will not allow our community's birth practitioners to be criminalized for providing the very care that we have requested. Homebirth mothers are highly educated, very informed, and tend to be very vocal in our communities, and in the political arena, if need be.
154.	Jacquelin Sabin	League city, TX	
155.	Tanya McNeill	Eugene, OR	
156.	Regina Lumsden	Honolulu, HI	
157.	Tammy Chang	Honolulu, HI	
158.	Carson Arnold	jonesboro, AR	
159.	bruckner maynard	ocean view, HI	
160.	Megan Brust	Springfield, OR	
161.	Amy Jones	Rapid City, SD	
162.	stephanie scott	eugene, OR	
163.	Concerned Citizen	New City, NY	
164.	Jennifer Shim	Honolulu, HI	
165.	Lisa King	Eugene, OR	
166.	O'Neill Louchard	Port Townsend, WA	
167.	Kamaile Jenkins	Wailuku, HI	
168.	Lilian Oaktree	Plymouth, United Kingdom	
169.	Laureen Ward	Alawa, Australia	
170.	heather thompson	kailua kona, HI	
171.	Mindy Kakazu	Aiea, HI	
172.	Stacey Moniz	Pukalani, HI	Please promote healthy birth choices for women, but not by attacking home births, and especially midwives. Please kill this bill but thank you for considering women's choices.
173.	Carson Hundrup	kihei, HI	
174.	Brianne Jordan	West Jordan, UT	
175.	Kourtney Knox	Haiku, HI	
176.	Brooke Decker	Kailua Kona, HI	
177.	Tiffany Miller	Kailua Kona, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
178.	Deborah Santos	Volcano, HI	
179.	sally simonds	Kula, HI	
180.	Shayna Salvador	Kahului, HI	
181.	Susan Kinsman	Wailuku, HI	
182.	Jolie Wanger	Honolulu, HI	
183.	Doris Kuailani	Wailuku, HI	
184.	sharon pearson	la quinta, CA	
185.	Stephanie Austin	Haiku, HI	This bill is terrible in all respects. There are great models from other states that Hawaii could adopt.
186.	Lena Fraser-Landmann	Dunedin, New Zealand	
187.	Rose Fisher	Auckland, New Zealand	
188.	Suzannah Brbich	Waipukurau, New Zealand	
189.	Christianna Swanson	Mountain View, HI	
190.	niva kay	haumoana, New Zealand	
191.	Fauna Parker	Hilo, HI	
192.	Morgan Hughes	Grand Rapids, MI	
194.	Raissa Veronique	Haiku, HI	Protect midwife care in Hawaii. Women should be free to make a choice how they want to have their childbirth.
195.	Holly Pickler	Honolulu, HI	
196.	Rebecca Burkett	Grand Rapids, MI	
197.	Elizabeth Kuiper	Rockford, MI	
198.	Jennifer Seif	Shelbyville, MI	Families need to have options. Limiting their options will NOT make birth safer. Valid research shows that midwife-attended homebirths are at least as safe (if not safer) than hospital births for most families.
199.	Leigh Wolf	Makanda, IL	Keep home birth legal and the midwives who assist. Mother deserve the choice for a safe attended home birth!
200.	jc connick	Keaau, HI	
201.	Cassandra Jah	Makawao, HI	
202.	Crystal Bot	Napier, New Zealand	
203.	Melissa suchowolec	Kalamazoo, MI	
204.	Verena Giesser	Waikoloa, HI	Please preserve women's right to birth their child at home with a midwife and/or doula present. Women have birthed their children at home for thousands of years. Pregnancy (continues on next page)

	Name	From	Comments
204.	Verena Giesser	Waikoloa, HI	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> and childbirth are not diseases, they are a natural occurrence. Midwives are fully trained to handle childbirth or to know when they can't and a doctor is indeed needed. Statistics show that there are fewer complications in home births than in hospital births. Women should be able to have the freedom to decide where and how to birth their babies!
205.	Valerie Williams	Grand Rapids, MI	
206.	vangie jones	haiku, HI	this is important
207.	Miriam Kotubetey	Honolulu, HI	
208.	Susan Sims	Honolulu, HI	This bill is wrong on so many levels. well written petition, just kill the bill and lets work together to provide healthy birth options for all women in all places.
209.	Elle Bee	Wellington, New Zealand	
210.	Sienna Fasel	Ann Arbor, MI	
211.	Daniel Seif	Wyoming, MI	
212.	jessica christen	oakland, CA	
213.	Monique Miyake	Kula, HI	Protect our right to birth at home with a Certified Professional Midwife
214.	Amber Miller	Brookfield, WI	
215.	Natalie Bushnell	cedar city, UT	
216.	Noelle Campbell	honolulu, HI	
217.	meredith Perry	Ann Arbor, MI	
218.	Lisa Sonego	Grand Rapids, MI	
219.	Paul Tran	Honolulu, HI	
220.	nicole brooks	Honolulu, HI	
221.	Calley Gerard	ada, MI	
222.	Maggie Welker	Haiku, HI	
223.	Megan Creaser	Ewa beach, HI	
224.	Susan Serrano	Honolulu, HI	
225.	Roxanne Estes	Pahoa, HI	
226.	Chelsea Qualey	Captain cook, HI	
227.	Candice Holgate	las vegas, NV	
228.	Melissa Preitauer	Naperville, IL	
229.	Debra Startzman	Maumee, OH	
230.	Katryna Hansen	Wahiawa, HI	
232.	Helga Fiederer	Paia, HI	
233.	Courtney Daman	allendale, MI	

	Name	From	Comments
234.	maile davis	haiku, HI	
235.	Beth Rosen	Jamaica Plain, MA	
236.	Wailani Gonsalves	Pahoa, HI	
237.	Shay Chan Hodges	Haiku, HI	
238.	Sherron Collins	Spring Lake, MI	The statistic upon which this bill is based is highly suspect.
239.	Tanja Browne	Honolulu, HI	
240.	Kevin Snow	Waikoloa, HI	
241.	Antoinette Murray	Honolulu, HI	
242.	Erin Medeiros	Kapaa, HI	
243.	Angeline Irizarry	Colorado Springs, CO	
245.	Tom p Sorensen	Captain cook, HI	
246.	lindi Jameson	santa rosa, CA	
247.	Jennifer Votrain	Honolulu, HI	
248.	Vanessa Ghantous	Makawao, HI	More than half of my friends have had home births supervised by a licensed midwife. All had positive outcomes, and in one emergency situation the miwife had the mother safely transported to the hospital for delivery. Women have been giving birth at home for far, far longer than they have been going to hospitals. Midwives are not only able to help a mother deliver in the comfort of her home, they are able to determine when it would be safer to deliver in a hospital. A healthy full term pregnancy is not a medical emergency that requires hospitalization.
249.	Robert Votrain	Honolulu, HI	
250.	Elizabeth Tomoso	Makawao, HI	
251.	Benjamin Callahan	Pukalani, HI	This bill is masquerading as a step towards greater safety for home births. What it really is doing is stripping Mom's and family's of their full rights of choosing the births that they want. Please let the Mom's and family's make their "own informed decision".
252.	Tungane Kani	Dannevirke, New Zealand	
253.	Christi Trimble-Kreutz	Everett, WA	
254.	Theresa Rockafellow	wailuku, HI	
255.	E Haines	Makawao, HI	Women should have a choice for home birth!
256.	Nicki Wells	Santa Rosa, CA	
257.	Danielle Phillips	Makawao, HI	
258.	Andrea Barton	Keaau, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
259.	Kristen Ma	Eleele, HI	
260.	Scott Osborn	Mililani, HI	Please respect the rights of expecting Mothers: allow them make their own informed decision on how their child is born.
261.	Ramona Webb	Colorado Springs, CO	
262.	ashley dewitt	springfield, OR	
263.	Kim Brady	Wahiawa, HI	
264.	Rocio Bueno	Ewa Beach, HI	
265.	cortney sugg	hilo, HI	
266.	Stephanie Wilkinson	Honolulu, HI	Midwives are a blessing.
267.	mayra madrigal	norfolk, VA	
268.	Noelani Rivers	Lahaina, HI	
269.	Nomi Ross	Friday harbor, WA	
270.	Alexandra De Jesus	Wahiawa, HI	
271.	Jordan Pearson	Makawao, HI	
272.	Amanda Green	San Jose, CA	Women deserve the right to choose where they birth! Home births are safe. They are peaceful and beautiful.
273.	Nicole Francisco	tumwater, WA	
274.	Vicky Barrick	Tumwater, WA	
275.	Krista Hudson	Wahiawa, HI	
276.	Jasmine Salame	Chesapeake, VA	
277.	Nikole Keka	Keaau, HI	
278.	christina berry	pearl city, HI	
279.	Cheryl Tunnicliffe	Pahoa, HI	I stand strongly with the midwives of Hawaii. Home birth is an essential birthing plan option for me and all mothers of Hawaii. The midwives have provided me and and my family the highest quality of care during all stages of pregnancy. I would not be able to have babies in the hospital setting and specifically seek out midwives to support me during my pregnancy. Every woman should have the right to make an educated decision on what type of care she would like during her pregnancy.
280.	Laura Krieger	Osceola, IN	
281.	Satya Douglas	Haiku, HI	Women need the right to choose
282.	noele nowaczyk	buffalo, NY	
283.	Caron Allen Taira	Saint Louis, MO	
284.	Meg Fraser	Geeveston, Australia	
285.	Necole Killick	Lambert, MT	

	Name	From	Comments
286.	Roslynn Hutson	Honolulu, HI	
287.	Emma Wright	mount eliza, Australia	
288.	Brittany Lehing	Franklin lakes, NJ	
289.	Briana Crakes	Oceanside, CA	
290.	Heather Nicolai	Toledo, OH	
291.	Ellen Davis	Cypress Inn, TN	
292.	Andrea Franklin	Prairie Village, KS	
293.	Heather Durbin	Carthage, IN	
294.	Sky Connelly	Kula, HI	
295.	Leanna Andrade	Aiea, HI	
296.	chelisse okamura	kaneohe, HI	
297.	Nicole Sheffield	Woodbridge, CA	
298.	Derrillynn Parker	Ambridge, PA	
299.	Anasa Pickens	Santa Monixa, CA	
300.	Ashley Baker	big rapids, MI	
301.	Hanna Elkins	El Paso, TX	
302.	Dannah Swift	Fort Collins, CO	I labored for 60 hours under the care of my highly skilled nurse-midwife. Any hospital would have had me on drugs and probably in surgery well before I would have delivered on my own. Hospital care like that is unacceptable to me, not to mention completely unaffordable for an uninsured family. Home birth is a safe and affordable alternative to birthing in a hospital. This bill is completely useless and puts mothers and babies at risk of unnecessary medical intervention.
303.	Kalea Francoeur	Abbotsford, Canada	
304.	Ellen Turner	Alexandria, VA	S. B. No. 2569 which has recently been introduced and concerns regulation and licensure of home birth midwives contains dangerously incorrect information and is a health and safety hazard to mothers and babies as well as a transgression on mothers' medical, religious and constitutional rights. It is harmful to women and their families, creates a monopoly in healthcare and will eradicate the safe practice of home birth and midwifery in Hawaii. The bill also infringes on patients' rights and violates their right to medical privacy. it is well and widely known that international data supports the fact that planned home birth has similar if not better outcomes than planned hospital births.
305.	Chelsea Januszewski	Kalaheo, HI	
306.	Yelena Kogan	Kula, HI	
307.	cynthia fernandez	honolulu, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
308.	Sarah Naumcheff	Travis AFB, CA	Women should have the right to choose who to birth, and deserve to have all the options available to them. Homebirth is just as if not more safe than a hospital birth.
309.	Gwendolyn Sexton	Lawrence, MI	
310.	Moira Hahner	Rosalia, WA	
311.	Jaymie Lewis	Kailua, HI	
312.	Hollis Taylor	Kurtistown, HI	women have a right to choose where they will give birth ...my OBGYN doctor laughed when I told him I wanted natural (no drugs) childbirth ... he said I would be begging him for drugs while in hospital in labor ...I had been preparing with Lamaze classes and he also said he didn't want me to hyperventilate during delivery...I decided to have my son at home with a mid-wife and never regretted my choice ... Please kill Senate Bill 2569
313.	Hayley Kocur-Ford	Volcano, HI	
314.	ellie engler	grand rapids, MI	
315.	Kathryn Julia	Honolulu, HI	This bill is based on the Medical Model of birth which is one option for women. However many women want to avoid unnecessary drugs and interventions while they are birthing their babies. Our bodies are designed to birth our offsprings just as it is designed to ovulate, menstruate, conceive and gestate a baby. The medical model interferes with the normal hormonal flow which enables us to birth our babies. The more educated women become the more realize they would like to follow their bodies natural processes to birth their babies. Studies show that interrupting this process creates more risk and makes birth unsafe for mother and babies. This is why USA is 42nd in the world in maternal and fetal mortality.
316.	Selene Wayne	Pahoa, HI	
317.	Constance Shafer	Abilene, TX	My oldest daughter was born at home with a midwife attending. I believe women should have the right to choose their birthing option.
318.	Taylor Schultz	ocean view, HI	
319.	Kristy Benson	Philadelphia, PA	Women should have the right to choose their birthing place/care. Kill Senate Bill # 2569
320.	Simone Derow-Ostapowicz	Honolulu, HI	As a healthy child birth baby and a sister to two women who had four healthy home births in Hawaii, I would like to have the ability to have a home birth in Hawaii. I do not agree with the terms of this bill and would like it stopped immediately. The wording and requirements of this bill are grossly misleading and I would like to have the choice of <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
320.	Simone Derow-Ostapowicz	Honolulu, HI	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> midwife and/or naturopathic physician when giving birth. I understand the desire to have some sort of regulation on the part of the government, but I do not agree with this bill's requirements. Please stop this bill and protect women's reproductive freedom!
321.	joseph khamvongsa	mililani, HI	
322.	Dan Graydon	Haiku, HI	
323.	Derek Atchley	Albu, NM	
324.	Daya Akina	kanoeh, HI	It is a violation of human rights to tell a woman where she can and cannot give birth. To remove the primary caregiver at a homebirth (a midwife), giving women no other option that to deliver at a hospital is unjust. It is overly biased and unjust to have the governing body exclude professional midwives that assist with homebirths, and only allow CNMs and professionals that work in hospital settings to say what is safe and not safe at a homebirth when they don't partake in it! PLEASE LET WOMEN CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES... there are risks either way! Let women choose which they risk they want to take!
325.	Justine Kamelamela	Aiea, HI	
327.	Pia Richardson	Broomfield, CO	
328.	Kathleen Hallal	Irvine, CA	
329.	Dejah Thoris	Seattle, WA	
330.	Adrea Pringle	Wailuku, HI	It's my right to have the option to choose home birth if I decide. The government needs to get out from in between our legs. My body, my choice.
331.	April Colpas	Lahaina, HI	
332.	Emily O'Connor	Makawao, HI	
333.	Deborah Maghen	makawao, HI	
334.	Kristina Donovan-Cook	Waikoloa, HI	
335.	Allison Silver	Meadow Vista, CA	
336.	nekole shapiro	Seattle, WA	
337.	Aza Hankins	Seattle, WA	
338.	farrah rivera	mililani, HI	
339.	Malcolm Jackson	Santa Monica, CA	
341.	Michelle Prieditis	Seattle, WA	
342.	Kim storey	alpharetta, GA	
343.	Iaina brilliant	kamuella, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
344.	Sindy Strosahl	Newport News, VA	
345.	Barbara Rivera	Woodbridge, NJ	As a college educated home birth mother of 3, I chose my midwife BECAUSE she was not licensed and she was highly trained. I took 100% responsibility for my baby, my body and my birth. She gave me 100% of her presence and she caught my babies. History is watching you now... this bill is a step backwards and places women in the "prized cattle" category when she can't make her own decisions regarding her body & birth.
346.	Donald Mensah	Burnaby, Canada	Don't do it! People should have the right to choice!
347.	Taya Goldstein	Canyon Country, CA	
348.	bree forbes	ewa beach, HI	
349.	Fiona Willis	Frome, United Kingdom	
350.	Nikole Morris	Pahoa, HI	
351.	Maet Pearson	Jindalee, Australia	
352.	JoEllen Madison	Omak, WA	
353.	Chelsea Smith	Lahaina, HI	
354.	Sarah Knighten	Kihei, HI	
355.	Elizabeth Gomez	Portland, OR	
356.	Topsanna Littlestar	Palouse, WA	I am the 5th or 6 kids to be born at home. Natural Birth is the best choice for me.
357.	Justine Arian	Seal beach, CA	
358.	Ann Evans	Makawao, HI	
359.	Chantalle Haug	Kaneohe, HI	
360.	Lana Owens	Lahaina, HI	
361.	Christy Kahooohanohano	Wailuku, HI	
362.	Tara Compehos	Honolulu, HI	This bill will not work because it is written without any understanding of the population it will affect. The families who choose to give birth outside of the hospital are looking for a different model of care. SB2569 criminalizes all out of hospital birth except for those within the medical model.
363.	Danielle Hewetson	Ewa beach, HI	
364.	April Kurtyka	Huntington Beach, CA	
365.	DeeDee McFarland	Tonasket, WA	
366.	Jakki McIntosh	cincinnati, OH	
367.	Karma Cloud	Montclair, NJ	

	Name	From	Comments
368.	Corley Magnusson-Tolton	Winnipeg, Canada	
369.	chantal Hawkins	st cloud, MN	
370.	Candace Barber	Renton, WA	
371.	Malia Jones	Honolulu, HI	
372.	Marlha Beard	Santa Ana, CA	
373.	Melissa Moniz	Woods, TX	
374.	Ras Mikey Gamboa	Honolulu, HI	
375.	Karen Hoffman	JBER, AK	
376.	Kristy Cronkrite	Yorba Linda, CA	
377.	Christy Funk	brea, CA	
378.	Kelly Payne	Kaneohe, HI	
380.	Bryce Ellory	Woodacre, CA	
381.	chelsea Laanui	wailuku, HI	
382.	Kola McCabe	Kailua, HI	
383.	Uzuri Asad	Indpls, IN	
384.	Michelle laurent	tonasket, WA	
385.	Samantha Winters	Trinity, FL	
386.	Laraine Arian	san pedro, CA	
387.	James Stewart	Independence, MO	
388.	Dian Hermes	Honolulu, HI	
389.	Patricia Tholen	kula, HI	
390.	Wendy Askew	Marina, CA	Please protect the rights of women to make informed decisions about who they choose to provide maternity care and where they decide to give birth.
391.	Jessica Bourque	Kailua, HI	
392.	Megan Brannan	Minneapolis, MN	
393.	Rosaria Vinci	Chesapeake, VA	
394.	Kelley OBrien	Honolulu, HI	
396.	Kalae Kaina	Waimanalo, HI	I had both my babies at home in a very loving and supported environment. Please protect a woman's choice to homebirth in Hawaii!!
397.	Jenna Keehnen	Houston, TX	This bill is a witch hunt. Midwives certainly need oversight but this is NOT the way to achieve it and also preserve a mother's birth options. Overly medicalized birth is the cause of a great number of troubling issues in our maternity system, I hardly think putting one of the most <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
397.	Jenna Keehnen	Houston, TX	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> pure forms of birth assistance under that dirty blanket is appropriate or warranted. It will be a sad day in Hawaii if you allow the medical establishment to bastardize birth choices.
398.	irene kelly	Honolulu, HI	
399.	cynthia holbert	houston, TX	
400.	Scott Snyder	Emmaus, PA	
401.	Kylie McRae	Garland, TX	
402.	William Newton	Ewa Beach, HI	
403.	Monakah Reign	mississauga, Canada	
404.	Adrienne Smith	Silverdale, WA	
405.	Tani Sebro	Honolulu, HI	Women have a constitutional right to chose where and how they give birth.
406.	ulrike schmidt	austin, TX	
407.	Randy Asio	Lahaina, HI	
408.	Racquel Bartels	Keaau, HI	
409.	Reena Shah	Honolulu, HI	Women deserve the right to choose who will assist and/or deliver their baby. Midwives play an integral role in birthing across the world with wide success, allowing for an alternative to doctors where medical intervention is unnecessary. Midwifery is an invaluable profession Hawaii cannot afford to lose!
410.	Sarah Foster	Porter, OK	
411.	Paul Carter	Paia, HI	This bill is outrageous and in no way serves Hawaii, please kill this bill immediately
412.	Leah Frakes	League City, TX	
413.	Sunita swarup	waipahu, HI	
414.	Teruko Yamada	Keaau, HI	
415.	Sheena Criswell	Kailua-Kona, HI	We have had two beautiful home births with very educated, safe, and wonderful Certified Professional Midwives, different then Certified Nurse Midwives and Certified Midwives. Please give birth the honor and safety it deserves by not supporting this very restricting bill, but instead supporting home birth and birth choices for women and their families, and the midwives that they choose.
416.	Anne Keehnen	Houston, TX	
417.	Becky Eger	corpus christi, TX	
418.	Krista Graves	Honolulu, HI	
419.	Jovanna Fern	Honolulu, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
420.	Kayla Berry	Saint Paul, MN	Midwifery is a long-standing practice to care for pregnant mothers and the delivery of their babies. From what I have read, infant fatality rates are higher in hospitals anyway! To each their own! I had my babies in hospitals. Some of my dear friends have birthed at home without incident and with incredible satisfaction. Women deserve the right to birth their precious babies how they see fit. One option must be to do so at home with a midwife, and as naturally as they wish. Squash this ridiculous big government bill!
421.	Patricia Edwards	Honolulu, HI	
422.	Dawn Olival	Kailua Kona, HI	Don't take away a woman's right to choose where and how to birth!
423.	Nicole Chatterson	Honolulu, HI	
424.	Joy Olival	Kailua-kona, HI	
425.	Ellen Sidles-Farhi	Brooklyn, NY	This must stop! Many human rights are at risk. Please consider this bill a dangerous infringement on these rights and a move to place many lives at risk.
426.	Elizabeth Young	Kailua kona, HI	
427.	basli mounia	strasbourg, France	
428.	Heidi Henkle	PP, CA	
429.	Sarah Olival	Kailua-kona, HI	Women should have the right to choose who helps them give birth.
430.	Simon Anderson	Trowbridge, United Kingdom	
431.	Melissa Ekstrom	Pahoa, HI	Opposed to Senate Bill No. 2569! I've had 5 homebirths (3 in Hawaii) and want my daughters to have homebirths! Our babies have this birthright! This bill is statistically unsupported and would keep Hawaii behind the times! .
432.	Chelsea Nichols	keaaau, HI	
433.	Jeanne Wick	Kula, HI	
434.	Patricia Brinkmann	pico rivera, CA	
435.	Gabriella Johanns	Schwerzenbach, Switzerland	
436.	Tasha Hakeem	Holualoa, HI	
437.	Kahea Tylor	Kapaa, HI	
438.	Meredith Thomas	East Windsor, NJ	
439.	Tal Levanon	misgav dov, Israel	
440.	Sunny Savage-Luskin	Haiku, HI	
441.	Tomoko Young	San Diego, CA	
442.	Michelle Duff	San Antonio, TX	

	Name	From	Comments
443.	Sabrina Remel	Kiln, MS	
444.	Dana Luttrell	St Charles, MO	
445.	Kathi Valeii	Kalamazoo, MI	Stringent restrictions on who may access midwifery care increases risk to women by forcing many women to choose between two very polarizing choices - unassisted birth at home or surgical birth. Decisions about health care are always most safely decided between a woman and a trusted care provider, when her unique circumstances can be evaluated. Any measure that strips women of the ability to be the ultimate decision maker about her birth does not increase safety, it increases risk to women and their babies. Women deserve access to the kind of support they deem best. This bill should be revised in a way that puts the consumer in control of choices surrounding her birth circumstances - including where, when, how and with whom she gives birth.
446.	Brandye Grote	Austin, TX	
447.	Michelle Herriott	Cabot, AR	
448.	Jennifer Yamagata	Burnaby, Canada	
449.	Kim Logsdon	Chico, CA	
450.	Jyoti Mau	Honolulu, HI	
451.	Kate Althouse	Nut Mountain, Canada	
452.	Stuart Fischbein	Los Angeles, CA	I am a fellow of ACOG and a practitioner of out of hospital birthing. Certain members of the College have long been antagonists of reasonable birth choices. They have a long history of cherry picking their data, deriding advocates of birth choice and violating the AMA code of beneficence based ethics which states they have an obligation to respect patient autonomy in decision making.
453.	Jodi Dewhirst	Crestline, CA	As a woman I believe it is my choice for the type and place of care. I would never give up my right to do what is best for me. I would never let a hospital or physician tell me what I need.
454.	Leah Vines	Kealakekua, HI	Please look to the state of Oregon for a much better model of homebirth care - or even Finland, a country where most births happen at home. Do not allow this bill to pass.
455.	Marisa Wilson	Missouri City, TX	
456.	Niv Hemi	Haleiwa, HI	
457.	Athena Melville	Talmage, CA	
458.	Annabel Bryant	London, United Kingdom	
459.	Carla Sargent	Hamilton, New Zealand	

	Name	From	Comments
460.	Julianna Sauber	Three Rivers, MI	
461.	Michelle Maisonville	Lethbridge, Canada	
462.	Vanessa Bravo	Lancaster, CA	
463.	Ashley McMullen	Box Elder, SD	
464.	Caitlen Hathcock	Greeley, CO	
465.	April Griffi	red deer, Canada	
466.	Delaina Crabb	Port angeles, WA	
467.	Sheena Hatton	Bromborough, United Kingdom	
468.	Donya Earley	Chuckey, TN	
469.	Kelsea Aaberg	Honolulu, HI	
470.	Mary Plante	Concord, CA	
471.	taylor mccormack	oxnard, CA	
472.	caitlin penaloza	fort mill, SC	
473.	Carol Vena-Mondt	Occidental, CA	
474.	Elizabeth Willoughby	Norfolk, VA	
475.	Rebecca Axberg	Peoria Heights, IL	
476.	Kendra Credle	Wahiawa, HI	
477.	Carla Frey	Mexico City, Mexico	
478.	Alyson Walter	green cove springs, FL	
479.	Laura Whitsett	Davis, CA	
480.	Brea Caley	Honolulu, HI	
481.	Lori Gordon	Kailua-Kona, HI	
482.	Sarah ORourke	Marcellus, NY	
483.	Bonny Mate	Jenison, MI	
484.	Kelly Breslin	Los Angeles, CA	We all deserve the care of a mid wife!
485.	Emma Glover	Romford, United Kingdom	
486.	Michelle Boyd	Austin, TX	
487.	Sofie Rutherford	Hove, United Kingdom	Save Hawaiian midwives and to stop women having the right to chose where she wants to give birth to her baby is criminal.
488.	Sophie Merchant	Richmond, Australia	
489.	Jen Dockter	San Francisco, CA	
490.	Amber Wagner	West Fargo, ND	

	Name	From	Comments
491.	Susan Ashworth	London, United Kingdom	
492.	Laura Jansson	Racine, WI	
493.	Franchon McIntyre	Los Angeles, CA	
494.	Marisa Monroe	Little rock, AR	
495.	Natalia Hussey-Burdick	Kailua, HI	My three brothers and I were all born safely and peacefully at home with a Midwife, and I plan on doing the same thing when I have children. My friends have told me horror stories about giving birth in hospitals- in one, the nurse inserted the epidural wrong and caused excruciating, lasting back pain and it was an incredibly traumatic experience. It's not that I think all hospital births are bad; they're just impersonal, rushed, uncomfortable and unnecessary in most situations. Women should be able to experience the miracle of giving birth in the comfort and privacy of their own home, like we have for millions of years.
496.	Lisa Lee	North Charleston, SC	
497.	Alison Bibler	Waianae, HI	
498.	Cindy Boswell	Hattiesburg, MS	
499.	Dylan Botelho	Honolulu, HI	
500.	Allison Wareham	Overland Park, KS	
501.	Christopher Bibler	Waianae, HI	
502.	tai gar	honolulu, HI	
503.	Brooke Barnes	Gallatin, TN	
504.	Telisha White	Boaz, AL	
505.	Fie Campbell	Strasbourg, France	
506.	Alyssa Caldwell	Oklahoma City, OK	After a very bad hospital experience where my family was greatly injured and endangered I would not go back to a hospital for birth related care unless something goes wrong. Midwives are that safety net of trained birth professionals who are better at judging when something is wrong. The Wax study has been repeatedly shown to be flawed. This bill would further threaten natural child birth which is the safest for mother and baby and for preserving the families to which the belong. The care from a midwife is more constant and caring than in a hospital hooked to a machine and left alone. There is nothing safe for a vast majority of births in hospitals.
507.	Jenny West	Albuquerque, NM	Legislation provides reasonable standards and safety for all parties concerned. Everyone wins.
508.	Erin Baldauf	kihei, HI	
509.	Amanda Weigel	Natoma, KS	

	Name	From	Comments
510.	Bridget King	Lower lake, CA	
511.	Leila Crane	Columbus, MS	
512.	Gene Heikkila	West Hempsteas, NY	
513.	Sara Struckoff	Bakersfield, CA	
514.	Joan Morton	Kailua, HI	Do not pass this ridiculous bill which is against the rights of people to decide which is the best option for their health care and that of their children.
515.	danielle tew	gainesville, FL	
516.	janine benedict	sterling heights, MI	
517.	Kathy Noble	Sioux City, IA	Women & their families deserve choices in their birthing care.
518.	Meghan Duvall	Elizabethtown, KY	No one is forcing these women to have a home birth. It should be their choice where they want to give birth to their child. Don't take away that right.
519.	Shelby Woodall	Columbus, IN	
520.	Sonrisa Stepath	Kilauea, HI	Both of my children were birthed with the help of midwives and I would not want to have a baby in the hospital, unless we had a medical problem.
521.	jennifer rua	Keaau, HI	
522.	Craig Turner	Honolulu, HI	Fake State has no right to dictate what a woman does with her body or for that matter anyone's body
523.	Winikeneke leaf	Princeville, HI	
524.	Andrea DeCosta	Honolulu, HI	
525.	Sheryl Lynn	Munfordville, KY	birth is not an illness and does not need to happen in a hospital setting. Why is it legal to kill and unborn child but if you want to give birth at home its too "dangerous for the BABY". ?
527.	ALAN D. ACKERMAN	MOBILE, AL	
528.	Catherine Carter	Honolulu, HI	Politicians have NO business getting involved in women's personal health care decisions and having a child at home is a right. Having a child isn't a disease or a medical condition - it is a natural process and isn't one that politicians need to legislate! In addition, when I had my son, even though I chose to have him at the hospital because of my advanced age, my doula helped me when I hit a block in my labor and she helped me avoid having to have a cesarean section, so midwives and doulas help reduce medical costs, too. This bill is MAJOR overkill and it is NOT RIGHT! Please kill this bill # 2569 and protect women's rights in Hawai'i.
529.	Roberto King	Loughborough, Leic's, United Kingdom	
530.	Cheryl Phyllaier	Strasburg, PA	

	Name	From	Comments
531.	Sara Bedient	Tonasket, WA	
532.	Megan Kane	Omaha, NE	
533.	Ann Pitcher	Kapolei, HI	
534.	Bridget Saunders	Mount Isa, Australia	
535.	Chaise Herrington	Laurel, MS	
536.	Lydia Herrington	Laurel, MS	
537.	Fiona Endsley	Eureka, CA	
538.	Bethany Salas	Wailuku, HI	
539.	Natalia Lopez	Kailua, HI	
540.	Jennifer Solmirin	Kona, HI	
541.	Ashlee Roberts	tarpon springs, FL	
542.	Samantha Freed	Waimanalo, HI	
543.	Lisa H	Kailua, HI	
544.	Heather Faust	Catonsville, MD	
546.	Debbie Millikan	Honolulu, HI	
547.	Maile Maii	Honolulu, HI	
548.	Kaliko Maii	Honolulu, HI	
549.	Ka'iulani Martin	Waimea, HI	
550.	Katherine Potter	New Castle, PA	
551.	Kyla Grant	Playa del Rey, CA	
552.	Melanie de Jesus	MADISON, WI	
553.	Malia Ribeiro	honolulu, HI	
554.	Melissa Teal	Lowell, MA	My fiance and I moved to Hawaii for 4 months so we could have a midwife and home birth. It was one of the most magnificent experiences in my life. Absolutely without a doubt the best way to go for child birth. I do agree that hospitals are great for cases where emergencies arise. However, we've only had hospitals and hospital births for a few years compared to how long we've had our babies all natural wherever we are most comfortable. It should be up to each individual how, and where they want to experience their childbirth. Period. Say YES! to midwifery and home births!
555.	Kathleen Bryan	Kailua, HI	So many of my friends had their children safely delivered by a midwife. This is a basic right of a woman to choose how she will birth her child. It is not the business of government.
556.	Jean Stavru Peahi	Honolulu, HI	Women (and fathers) should have the right to choose how to birth their baby/babies. The law should not control a human right to birth. Midwives and other home birth individuals should not be held under the law and controlled <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
582.	Kim Usher	Wailuku, HI	By putting these restrictions you leave women alone and with no help if they want a home birth. Doctors visits are mandatory to see if it's safe birth...Some women do not like, trust or believe in the integrity of the medical profession.
583.	Margret Jain	Kyle, TX	
584.	Tiana Laranio	Kapaa, HI	
585.	Katherine Castelo	Kilauea, HI	
586.	Shannon Rudolph	Holualoa, HI	
587.	Michael Herrick	kapaa, HI	
588.	Colleen Bass	Kapaa, HI	
589.	Darlene Rodrigues	Mililani, HI	
590.	April Redmond	Kapaa, HI	Lord, please protect the rights of Mothers to choose medical care for themselves and their babies. Do not allow this bill to go into effect. Protect the rights of midwives to practice in HI, and bless all those that do. Amen.
591.	Marlee Kamakaala	Hauula, HI	
592.	Zoe Blue	Laguna Niguel, CA	
593.	Kealii Parker	Honolulu, HI	
594.	Shauna Kahiapo	Kailua, HI	I support home births for our keiki!! I do NOT buy into the propaganda of the insurance and pharmaceutical industries, and you shouldn't either. Kill this bill now!
595.	Amanda Stokes	Post Falls, ID	
596.	malia swenson	kapaa, HI	
597.	Emily Krause	Bigfork, MT	
598.	Elizabeth Jenkins	Honolulu, HI	
600.	Litea Maiava	Waipahu, HI	
601.	Rebecca Kiili	Wailuku, HI	
603.	Shanna Grafeld	Honolulu, HI	Midwifery care fits very well within the broader medical community, providing safe and woman-centered pregnancy care. In countries where midwifery care is the norm, maternal and child outcomes are much better than here in the US. Our response to the fact that we have the highest maternal and fetal mortality in the developed world has been to try and make birth even more "high tech"- yet we continue to see worse and worse outcomes. Birth is by its nature, a "low tech" event. I would gladly encourage a bill that supports midwives and acknowledges their important place in our broader medical community. But this bill, which would make homebirth nearly illegal under the guise of "improving safety" is an insult to the training and <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
603.	Shanna Grafeld	Honolulu, HI	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> experience of midwives, and the intelligence of women to choose what birthing options are best for them. This bill is unacceptable in its current form.
604.	penny guth-tuipulotu	lahaina, HI	
605.	Kaniela tuipulotu	Lahaina, HI	
606.	pii pareisa	Waimanalo, HI	
607.	Benjamin Cohn	Kailua-Kona, HI	
608.	Mitsuko Hayakawa	Pearl City, HI	
609.	Jean Redmond	Mohnton, PA	
610.	Patti Lafleur	Volcano, HI	
611.	Cynthia Caillagh	Cazenovia, WI	
612.	Lourdes Santaballa	Doraso, PR	
613.	Tobias Olival	Honokaa, HI	
614.	Erin Warner	Austin, TX	
615.	Makalani Franco-Francis	Kihej, HI	
616.	Brad Fackrell	Rio Rancho, NM	My wife gave birth to 5 of our 9 children at home with the aid of a midwife. She would never go back to a hospital for childbirth.
617.	Barbara Decker	Edmonds, WA	Research shows that home birth is just as safe if not safer when the birth is assisted by a trained midwife. Although a hospital may seem safer, we use many interventions that interfere with the birthing process that are causing complications. Women also have the right to have birth where they chose. It is their body and baby.
618.	Kimberlee Uno	Kapaa, HI	
619.	Hiram Kaikaina III	Honolulu, HI	
620.	Tanya Naehu	Kaunakakai, HI	
621.	Eric Kane	Waimanalo, HI	Be gone ye corporate fascist infiltration machine and the unholy "kill earth along with all God's Nature regime"
622.	Rose Pisarski	Wailuku, HI	
623.	Kathryn Weymouth	Granbury, TX	Homebirth is a safe and proven option for birth. CPMs are fully trained and specialise in out of hospital birth. This option provides more satisfaction and less intervention...a cost saving in many ways.
624.	Salome Lagman	pahoa, HI	
625.	John Fox	Middletown, PA	
626.	Brittany Walker	El Paso, TX	

	Name	From	Comments
627.	Gina Ahuna	Honolulu, HI	
628.	sara carbaugh	spring hill, FL	
629.	M K R Olds	Kurtistown, HI	
630.	kama apo	haiku, HI	
632.	Caroline Bissey	Christchurch, New Zealand	
633.	Keri Karnath	SAVE POHAKULOA, HI	
634.	Avani Parker	woodinville, WA	
635.	Michael Hyson	Pahoa, HI	
636.	Mary Dudoit	hoolehua, HI	
637.	Krysta Carmack	Hanalei, HI	
638.	E Dean	Southend, United Kingdom	How dare you use wildly false propoganda, you will never succeed in stopping us birth unimpeded, your lies will be drastically exposed.
639.	Lori Fumar	Kahului, HI	
640.	Jacqui Tomkins	London, United Kingdom	
641.	Iwa Hartman	Lahaina, HI	
642.	Angela Schmidt	Ewa Beach, HI	
643.	Joanna Madrigal	kapaa, HI	
644.	Heather Fisher	Kapolei, HI	
645.	Jamie Haugh	Goose Creek, SC	
646.	Michael Schmidt	Ewa Beach, HI	
647.	yeshuah kauhane	Pahoa, HI	
648.	Genesis Neumann	Sarasota, FL	
649.	Alicia Dueck	Kula, HI	I am the mother of nine children. Three of them were born at home by choice. For financial reasons the others were born at a hospital. Giving birth is the most natural process in the world. Pregnancy is not a disease and regulating the choice of who may attend/assist the birth must be left up to the mom to be.
650.	pat jewell	honolulu, HI	
651.	Rachel Kleinman	Pemberton, Canada	
652.	Kelley Lacks	Keaau, HI	
653.	Heather Penfield	Volcano, HI	
654.	Ted Williams	Ralls, TX	
655.	Figen ♦zat?lgan	izmir, Turkey	
656.	Carissa Fajardo	Mililani, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
657.	Kale Tanaka	Kailua-Kona, HI	
659.	Chris Hamilton	Auckland, New Zealand	
660.	Veronique Heuze	Reichstett, France	
661.	Peggy O'Neal	Knoxville, TN	
662.	Nicole Carroll	Omaha, NE	
663.	Heather Kelly	Denver, CO	Please protect midwife care in Hawaii!!
664.	Micah Olival	Honokaa, HI	
665.	Blair Smith	Kapaa, HI	Women are competent and able to make the best decisions for themselves and their babies, when given informed consent. Don't take away our right to choose. Don't take away our right to a safely guarded home birth. And please do not assume a doctor who has only trained and worked in hospitals knows anything about home birth and how to keep it safe. Doctors are not midwives and midwives are not doctors. We need both to have safe, effective, and affordable pregnancy care. This bill is an insult to the many trained and competent midwives working in Hawaii.
666.	timothy james barron	haleiwa, HI	
667.	Joette Black	Kihei, HI	
668.	Judith Cantrell	Kihei, HI	Keep your "birth ing rights"
669.	Chasity Cadaoas	kihei, HI	
670.	Robin Garrison	Makawao, HI	
671.	Lisa Laverty	Tahlequah, OK	
672.	Jessica Takei	Honolulu, HI	
673.	Sharon Wallis	Asheville, NC	
674.	Corinne Wickersham	Pennsville, NJ	
675.	Mahealani Botelho	Haleiwa, HI	
676.	Clair Sullivan	Champaign, IL	
677.	Rebecca Van Sickle Fetzek	Saint Paul, MN	
678.	Juanita Diaz	Ocean Springs, MS	
679.	Nermari Broderick	Coral Springs, FL	
680.	Hannah Surowitz	Quincy, MA	
681.	Tiffany Carter Skillings	Brunswick, ME	
682.	Jameson Skillings	Augusta, ME	

	Name	From	Comments
683.	Ariel Bernstein	Portland, ME	
684.	Christine Macdonald	Bridgton, ME	
685.	Caitlin Caulfield	Florence, MA	
686.	Elizabeth Hillman	Baltimore, MD	As a nurse, as a masters student in public health nursing, and midwifery, and as a parent, I oppose legislation that would result in harm to mothers (and their infants) who go without safe care providers when they choose to birth at home. This sort of clumsy bill does not increase the safety of births in such families. Training, licensing, regulating, and reimbursing midwives is a much better approach.
687.	Kristy Mack	Los Alamos, NM	
688.	ryan jean	randolph, ME	
689.	Kandis Hernandez	Scottsdale, AZ	
690.	William Hinkel	clinton, ME	Please ensure midwifery exists in HI!
691.	Karen K Anderson	Half Moon Bay, CA	I lived in Hawaii for many years, and this is not done in the spirit of ohana!!
692.	Kimberly Radtke	Clinton, NY	I had a safe home birth with a licensed midwife and two student midwives. I was much less at risk at home than I would have been in a hospital and save my insurance company thousands of \$. Keep home birth safe and legal!
693.	Alanna Barber	Hilo, HI	
694.	Claudia Berns	Stillwater, MN	Women, families, and babies deserve to have peaceful out of hospital births and choices in their maternity care. Midwifery care is a crucial part of our history AND the forefront of maternity care throughout the world. Long live the midwives.
695.	Soleil Roache	Honolulu, HI	
696.	Lisa Kreinbrook	Silver Springs, FL	
697.	Brandon Carter	Brooklyn, NY	
698.	Denise Olson	Gibsons, Canada	
699.	ian sveilich	old lyme, CT	
700.	Lindsey Harman	Decorah, IA	
701.	Jacquelyn Smith	Richfield, MN	Birth is a personal journey that should be left in a woman's hands.
702.	margo kennedy	glendale, CA	
703.	Jenna Cheung	Toms river, NJ	
704.	crissy Humburg	elko, MN	Please protect the freedom of choosing where and how someone can have there baby! This really is to far!
705.	Pamela Smith	Charleston, SC	
706.	Kimberly Mizuta	Honolulu, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
707.	Melani Sunia	Honolulu, HI	
708.	Arian Navickas	Lansford, ND	Hawaiian women need access to competent providers who can attend their births in the place of their choosing. Please don't outlaw direct entry midwives, rather find a way to create a law that supports them and your constituents
709.	Samantha Skillings	Portland, ME	
710.	Jolie Stewart	Kaneohe, HI	
711.	sara Kahele	Ewa Beach, HI	
712.	Kelly Patterson	Waianae, HI	
713.	Elizabeth Denhart	Pahoa, HI	
714.	David Kahele	Ewa beach, HI	
715.	Misty Molina	Fox Island, WA	
716.	Etuini Sunia	Honolulu, HI	
717.	Candice Schempp	Winfield, WV	Please allow women and babies the right to experience birth in their natural environments.
718.	Jordan Novak	Kapolei, HI	
719.	Dara Lestrade	Portland, ME	
720.	Accalia Hinton	Maple Valley, WA	
721.	Drew Pascua	Auburn, CA	
722.	Hedderlea Ilustre-Pascua	auburn, CA	
723.	Mary Ann Baul	Flagstaff, AZ	
724.	Susana García	Phoenix, AZ	
725.	rebecca hughes	Soquel, CA	It is our right to choose where and with whom we give birth.
726.	Kiersten Homalom	Mililani, HI	
727.	RICHARD DAVIS	Stanton, CA	
728.	Jason Patterson	Waianae, HI	
729.	Kimo Ozaki	Honolulu, HI	
730.	Stephanie Button	Pearl city, HI	
731.	Felicia Friend	Kamuela, HI	
732.	Juan Balila Jr.	Honolulu, HI	
733.	Gwen Scarbrough	Jonesboro, AR	
734.	Laurel Brant	Burmaby, Canada	
735.	Dani Carico	Honolulu, HI	
736.	Dorothy Ku'ulei Lien	Arroyo Grande, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
737.	Madir Scolpini	Kihei, HI	
738.	Sharon Takashima	Kailua, HI	
739.	Kimberly Keil-Dezarn	Geneseo, NY	
740.	Khristeena Kingsley	Williamsville, NY	
741.	Hope Edwards	Windsor, ME	
742.	Aimee Wood	West Hartford, CT	
743.	Emily Dykes	Oakdale, CT	
744.	Juliette Verville	Lake Worth, FL	Women deserve the right to choose how and where they want to give birth!
745.	Kristin Keene	Wales, ME	
746.	Kathleen Mugnolo	Rush, NY	
747.	Carrie Robertson	Marion, IA	Please do not take this important, safe alternative to hospital births away from women. Dictating where women can give birth is taking away their right to choose.
748.	Laura Correia	Phoenix, AZ	I honor your heart to keep mothers and babies safe, but this is not the way to do it. Please look at ALL the data regarding the safety of homebirth, including the one due to come out on Jan 30, 2014 and statistics from other countries. Homebirth IS safe when attended by professionals like midwives; they know what normal, low risk birth is, and when to transfer care if it becomes unsafe. What we need is more community and unity with the OBs and hospitals when transferring care. Let women decide where to birth- SAFELY and WISELY. Thank you.
749.	Kimberli Orr	Colirado Springs, CO	
750.	Patty Kandiko	Grand Junction`, CO	As a CNM, I support the rights of women to choose who, and where they give birth. It is a human rights issue!
751.	Carlie Corbett	Kurtistown, HI	
752.	Jacquelyn Dillon	Wailuku, HI	
753.	K Du	Kaneohe, HI	
754.	Angela Sarich	Haiku, HI	
755.	Tanya Falk	Hana, HI	
756.	Cara Schmidt	Ramona, CA	
757.	Nyima Bieber	Carmel, CA	
758.	patricia hill	mountain view, HI	
759.	Christin Newman	Crofton, MD	
760.	Erin Evans	Mendocino, CA	
761.	Hannah Towner	Lahaina, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
762.	Rachel Breen	tigard, OR	
763.	Bianca Santillan	Haiku, HI	
764.	GH Havener	Memphis, TN	I am a native Hawaiian currently residing in the heart of American civil rights movement, Memphis Tennessee. Women need a safe alternative to hospital births. Many families really can't afford pricey hospital stays nor do they appreciate the limited ability to bond in a hospital environment.
765.	Dan DeZarn	Geneseo, NY	
766.	Amanda McAlister	Paia, HI	
767.	Laine Hamamura	Kaneohe, HI	
768.	leila kalahiki	honolulu, HI	
769.	Elizabeth Baer	Lebanon, OR	
770.	danielle wingerden	rochester, NY	
771.	Karla Holt	Zephyrhills, FL	
772.	Nicole Kay	Kaneohe, HI	
773.	Alohi Elder	Hana, HI	
774.	tim rosemeyer	lahaina, HI	
775.	Karin Borgerson	Seattle, WA	
776.	Brittany Waterman	Kapoleo, HI	
777.	Debra Wallace	Rochester, NY	Homebirths are as safe as or safer than hospital births. They are better for women, families and babies and they are an incredible experience. Women should have the right to make this decision for themselves.
778.	Veronica Gallardo	Alameda, CA	
779.	Lindsay Schoenecke	Honolulu, HI	
780.	Sammeo Albano	Lihue, HI	
781.	Barbara Scott	Kihei, HI	
782.	Rachel Gucker	Rochester, NY	Women should have the ability to have a midwife for a birth at a hospital or at home. This should be our choice.
783.	Laurie Skillings	Portland, ME	
784.	Jenna Toilolo	Kailua, HI	
785.	Leah Evans	Brooklyn, NY	I hail from Hawaii and now live in New York. I feel that this bill is detrimental to pregnant women and their health, as well as to the fates and well-being of their unborn children. It strikes me as another cruel attempt by hospitals to turn what is so beautiful and natural into a booming business for their own monetary gain, while entirely dismissing what <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
785.	Leah Evans	Brooklyn, NY	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> is healthier and better for the patient. Often times doctors push for unnecessary C-sections in order to quickly "get through" one birth and move on to the next. That is definitely not natural and poses many risks for the mother. Not to mention, without a vaginal birth, the newborn won't have received the vital healthy bacteria he or she needs for a healthy life. That is just one out of many examples why women feel safer having home births with caring and educated midwives who can give them the full attention needed. Please don't take this right away from women.
786.	Ariana Fine	Stratford, CT	
787.	J Harmon	abc, NC	
788.	Jen Ewaliko	Kaneohe, HI	
789.	Cynthia Ramirez	Honolulu, HI	
790.	Catherine Judge	Alameda, CA	
791.	Kat Lobendahn	Honolulu, HI	
792.	Craig Davidson	Waianae, HI	
793.	Chanyalynn Naone	Waianae, HI	
794.	Susan Heitmann	Lihue, HI	
795.	kalaimanuia hikalea	waimanalo, HI	
796.	Riki Roberts	Haiku, HI	This bill is NOT needed in the state of Hawaii. Please stop sitting around just trying to think up things that you can regulate. We have enough regulations, thanks.
797.	Regina Gora	Honolulu, HI	
798.	Alysia Tengan	Honolulu, HI	
799.	Rhebeka Hyland	Alfred Station, NY	
801.	Myranda Frederickson	Cassville, MO	
802.	Sarah Branson	Annapolis, MD	
803.	Laura Tangel	Geneseo, NY	If the woman has the right to kill her own child, why should she not have the right to choose where she should give birth?
804.	Tatiana Gonsalves	Kailua, HI	
805.	Lauren Bookatz	Honolulu, HI	
806.	Wright Kawaiokeola	Wahiawa, HI	
807.	Khelsea Malakaua	Honolulu, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
808.	Kymberli Smith	Dothan, AL	
809.	Rachael Johns	Midland City, AL	
810.	laura pyle	Kula, HI	
811.	lindsay merino	Costa mesa, CA	
812.	Karine Alvarez	Haiku, HI	Women should be free to decide how they want to birth the child. It is their decision, their choice! Its a free country!
813.	Angelica Amir	Kaneohe, HI	
814.	momi fortune	haiku, HI	
815.	Cindy Plyter	Oswego, NY	
816.	Patrick Cliett	Bearsville, NY	Have a heart!
817.	katya Rice	laredo, TX	Polititians have no business interfering with women's bodies, women's health, women's rights.!
818.	Erica Oleksa	kihei, HI	
819.	Renita Rodriguez	Ewa beach, HI	
820.	cherie amir	west hills, CA	
821.	Rina Mersburgh	Ewa Beach, HI	
822.	Crystal Kryeziu	Wailuku, HI	
823.	Damaris Pittman	Charlotte, NC	Women always have and always will give birth in the place where THEY feel safest--whether in a hospital, home or birth center. Forcing midwives out of the picture won't stop women from birthing at home. It will only force them to find attendants who are not held accountable. Trust mothers to do what they know is best and legalize midwives who best know how to attend them!
824.	Lindsay Thompson	Nelson, Canada	
825.	Mary Jo Padilla	Kihei, HI	
826.	Katherine Waters	Wailuku, HI	
827.	Malisa Eggers	Florence, AZ	
828.	Wendy Hudson	Makawao, HI	
829.	Dee Anne Domnick	Hawi, HI	This bill is NOT in the best interest of the consumer, and should be stopped, immediately! Midwifery regulation should be over-seen by midwives, NOT by doctors! Dr. Green refused to work with the well-trained, practicing midwives of our state's midwifery organization, (the Midwives Alliance of Hawaii) on a bill that would make sense. Instead, he has presented a bill that reflects self-interest, rather than a bill that protects the consumer. Please allow the midwives to be involved in creating a bill that honors the recommended national standards, as reflected in NARM's 'Certified Professional Midwife' or CPM credential.

	Name	From	Comments
830.	Rebecca Hall	Grand Prairie, TX	
831.	Prakash Mackay	Wailuku, HI	
832.	Megan Enebak	Lindstrom, MN	Instead of limiting birth, please educate women on their options, including risks and benefits. A good midwife is more valuable than any resource a pregnant woman can get!
833.	Lani Morris	Kihei, HI	
834.	Tara Mattes	Honolulu, HI	
835.	Rachel Unnever	Irving, TX	As a certified Doula I have seen many miraculous at home births and as a part time resident of Hawaii I hope I can still continue to experience it. For hundreds of years women have been able to give birth at home naturally. I feel and think it is our right to choose at at home birth with a midwife or doula or go to the hospital. However, we should not be forced to go to the hospital if we don't need to or want to. Again, our bodies have been doing this for hundreds of years and we should be able to keep on giving birth in an at home environment!
836.	Diana Gerkenmeyer	Keaau, HI	
837.	Susan Greber	Glenside, PA	
838.	Christina Seefeldt	Haiku, HI	
839.	Kara Johnson	Williams, OR	
840.	randy snider	San Francisco, CA	
841.	Tiffany Garcia	Waimanalo, HI	
842.	Jamie McCready	honolulu, HI	Midwifery is an important cultural aspect for bringing babies into this world. Women should have the right to deliver their babies in the way they think is best. Creating a board that is predominantly based in western medicine will eradicate the wisdom and knowledge of midwives that has been passed down through the generations.
844.	Toni Parker	Kihei, HI	
845.	Angeline Longshore	Puunene, HI	
846.	Adam Bolton	Van vleck, TX	
847.	Valerie Bolton	Van vleck, TX	
848.	jennie Pedersen	timonium, MD	
849.	Morgan Sherwin	Philadelphia, PA	
850.	Kaitlyn Lay	Starkville, MS	Women should have the option to be educated on, and choose from different safe methods of birth whether it be in the hospital with an OB/GYN, in a birth center, or at home with a Midwife. Midwifery and home birth should NOT be weeded out as an "unsafe" method of birth with a "high (continues on next page)

	Name	From	Comments
850.	Kaitlyn Lay	Starkville, MS	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> rate of infant mortality" when the facts simply do not support it. Let women know the truth and decide with guidance of professionals. If a woman can choose to have a baby, let her also choose how she has her baby.
851.	Trinity King	Lancaster, PA	We used midwives for both of our boys births/prenatal care. I was SO well taken care of! It was a great experience.
852.	Laura Tudor	Aiea, HI	
853.	Chanell Childers	Stone Mountain, GA	
854.	Deborah Barber	Matagorda, TX	
855.	Tara Walsh	Pukalani, HI	
856.	Violet Hodgkinson	Van Vleck, TX	
857.	Angela Esplin	Gibbons, Canada	
858.	tiati kane	kaneohe, HI	Natural pathic ways are what is going to save our world. Mid wives and home births are a blessing for thoes who want the choice to have the most real truest and original birthing experience. dont take away this right of passage for mothers and children and yes even fathers.
859.	Bryana NESBITT	Milwaukie, OR	
860.	Eva Annaluna	Kealakekua, HI	We all have a free will, it is our birth right as human beings on Earth. We are all One with nature, by our very nature... It is our right to give a conscious birth in a natural way. By signing this petition I support our community to continue living in Aloha and being an example to the world by doing so.
861.	Edward Laurson	Denver, CO	
862.	meaghan mulhall	leichhardt, Australia	
863.	Sarah Wallbaum	Prairie Village, KS	
864.	Miyoko Inase	Albuquerque, NM	Is it enough that MANA just released their study covering just under 17,000 planned homebirths? I don't know what other research you could ask for, or trust more.
865.	Greta Heminger	hilo, HI	
866.	Linda Black	Litchfield, MI	women have a right not to involve the medical world and babies have been born with out them for 100's of years
867.	Lita Elbertson	Kailua Kona, HI	
868.	Allegra Spain	Ferndale, WA	
870.	Rebecca Dodgw	Kula, HI	
871.	Erik Zak	Hampton, NH	
872.	Linda Powers	Bluffton, IN	
873.	mike Quisenberry	haiku, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
874.	Debby De Reus	Enkhuizen, Netherlands	
875.	Ilana Waxman	Haiku, HI	Giving birth at home with a trained midwife is a safe option that is standard in many European countries. It should be available to women in Hawaii!
876.	Lyn Aleka	Kailua Kona, HI	
877.	Virginia DeRosa	Amesbury, MA	
878.	Stephanie Schilling	Kailua Kona, HI	
879.	Kala Plante	Boxford, MA	
880.	Danielle Saxon	Natchez, MS	
882.	janelle wykes	kailua kona, HI	
883.	Cris Gibbons	Pearl City, HI	
884.	Faye Ramos	Kailua, HI	
885.	Falicia White	Kailua Kona, HI	
886.	dan craig	Kihei, HI	
887.	Maria Diessner	Kailua Kona, HI	
888.	Nohea Runnells	Capt. Cook, HI	
889.	Comice Addy	Portland, OR	
890.	Sera brand	pearl city, HI	
891.	Carlos Ramirez	Honolulu, HI	
892.	Christal Bardfield	Fort Belvoir, VA	
893.	Holly Mathews	Seattle, WA	
894.	Kathleen Pettis	San Jose, CA	
895.	Coleen Salazar	Visalia, CA	
896.	carissa lee	nampa, ID	i managed to have four babies outside of hospital, and one set of twins. eat that S.B. No. 2569
897.	megan rolfig	98550, WA	
898.	Callie Matulonis	Pahoa, HI	
899.	Joel Waller	Kailua-Kona, HI	
900.	Leinaala Henriques	keauhou, HI	
901.	Delania Branham	Kealakekua, HI	
902.	Brandon Henriques	keauhou, HI	
903.	Phyllis Hunt	IRB, FL	
904.	La'akea Paiva moreman	Kailua kona, HI	
905.	Genevieve Azar	Honaunau, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
906.	Aleson Rietow	Kamuela, HI	protect our right to choose.
907.	Jen Maydan	Haiku, HI	Birth setting is a personal choice and should be the sole right of the mother and father of the baby. Homebirth is a safe option. Mothers and fathers in Hawaii need to have homebirth with a midwife as a choice available to them.
908.	Cygal Gylman	Bend, OR	
909.	Lori Bialic	Oroville, WA	
910.	Amber Cochran	Auburn, CA	
911.	Aren Hansen	Wahiawa, HI	
912.	Catherine Maiava	Ewa beach, HI	
913.	Diane McElroy	kaneohe, HI	
914.	Michele Nakamura	Mililani, HI	
915.	blanca allen	kihei, HI	why would you want to take away a mothers personal choice! shame on you
916.	tara pipes	placerville, CA	
917.	Crystal Usita	Kailua Kona, HI	
918.	Aubrienne Scheldt	la jolla, CA	
919.	Shraddah Reyna	Sneads Ferry, NC	
920.	Elizabeth O'Halloran	Kettering, United Kingdom	
921.	Stephanie Nobles	Keaau, HI	
922.	Andras Tobler	Budapest, Hungary	
923.	Erin Gamet	seattle, WA	
924.	Jenni Goldman	Sedona, AZ	
925.	Heather Ramirez	Honolulu, HI	
926.	Rev Kyle Lovett	Honolulu, HI	
927.	Evelyn Quinn	Kailua, HI	
928.	Thomas Gibson	Honolulu, HI	
929.	Brenna Hunziker	Captain Cook, HI	Women's right to birth how they feel is best for them is a fundamental human right. Politics have no place in this very personal decision.
930.	Alicia Morrier	Kealakekue, HI	
931.	michelle mckeon	kailua kona, HI	
932.	Antoinette Gauci	Genova, Italy	
933.	Noah Broe	New Port Richey, FL	Modern medical interventions cause more problems than they solve, including birth complications and life-long birth defects and trauma. We must defend freedom and liberty in the USA, especially our right to choose as parents! Our basic human rights must not be taken from us!

	Name	From	Comments
934.	nikola anic	Clearwater, FL	
935.	Craig Krick	Dunnellon, FL	
936.	Paul Byron	Captain Cook, HI	
937.	L Kemp	Dunedin, FL	
938.	Nina Beeman	Springhill, FL	
939.	Carrie DeWitt	Ida Grove, IA	
940.	Sommer Geck	Rpb, FL	
941.	Clint McWilliams	dunedin, FL	
942.	katerina sharm	philadelphia, PA	This is a complete infringement on a woman's rights and her privacy. Humans are just a dollar sign to the healthcare industry in America.
943.	marisa provost	Haiku, HI	
944.	Amanda Laurette	Lake City, FL	
945.	Mary Dawes	Woodward, OK	
946.	Kjirste Boyce	Kihei, HI	
947.	Paige Ferguson	Austin, TX	
948.	Elizabeth Nelson	Kaneohe, HI	
949.	Sara Smith	KUIa, HI	Birth is a natural act and does not require government legislation. The choice of a home birth rightfully belongs in the hands of women and their partners.
950.	Stephanie Donaldson	Hudson, FL	
951.	Rachel Klein	parker, CO	
952.	Linda Ash	Amherst, NY	
953.	Tiare Lawrence	makawao, HI	
954.	Amanda Cruz	Daytona Beach, FL	
955.	Jaiana Uyeda	Lahaina, HI	
956.	Alexa Fong	Kula, HI	
957.	Tamara Paltin	Lahaina, HI	
958.	Jahlel Hunter	Lanai, HI	
959.	Terez Amato Lindsey	Kihei, HI	
960.	Arianna Feinberg	Makawao, HI	
961.	Brent Schlea	lahaina, HI	Protect freedom of choice!!
962.	Ciara Quam	Lahaina, HI	
963.	Shawna Wyatt	Kihei, HI	Home birth is for
964.	Meghan Tafoya	firestone, CO	
965.	Alice Chakar	Port Richey, FL	
966.	Kenyon Smith	Kula, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
967.	Gretchen Cardoso	Kula, HI	
968.	Lynn Fujiwara	Lahaina, HI	
969.	Tera Arnold	Paia, HI	
970.	Cheyenne Evans	Las Vegas, NV	
971.	Joy Miller	Escondido, CA	
972.	aimee rice	honolulu, HI	
973.	maile tuala	lahaina, HI	
974.	Shannon Rezents	Puunene, HI	
975.	Pamela Ruffridge	San Juan Capistrano, CA	
976.	Keala Fukuda	Aiea, HI	
977.	Leanne Fox	Waipahu, HI	The research they are referencing is very flawed. There are also no exemptions listed for Native Hawaiian traditional practices and practitioners.
978.	Nahokuheleiakeahu Keala	Honolulu, HI	
979.	Krystle Bertelsen	Lahaina, HI	
980.	monica chung	makawao, HI	
981.	April Boone	Haiku, HI	
982.	TREVA RANADEY	Honolulu, HI	
983.	Randi faria	Haleiwa, HI	
984.	Tessa Nobles	Bozeman, MT	
985.	linda laanui	kuka, HI	
986.	Ipolei Lindsey-Asing	Makawao, HI	
987.	Kawailehua Opunui	lahaina, HI	
988.	Megan Abubo	Haleiwa, HI	
989.	Juraesha li	Lahaina, HI	
990.	Jennifer Ahia	Wailuku, HI	This bill is uninformed and detrimental to the families in Hawaii! One of the most important `olelo no`eau in Hawaii culture is "Not all knowledge is taught in one school." This bill presumes that only a western medical setting is appropriate for giving birth which disrespects the informed choice of families with access to alternative, and or culturally traditional means of birthing. This bill is disrespectful and shameful! I strongly oppose it!
991.	Faith Mori	Kula, HI	
992.	Alesa Kneubuhl	Makawao, HI	
993.	Jade Sun	Waialua, HI	

	Name	From	Comments
994.	Kukini Suwa	Honolulu, HI	
995.	Abigail Hambek	Kihei, HI	
996.	Malani Rivera	Kula, HI	
997.	Rea Fox	Waialua, HI	We desire to preserve choices for mothers and wish to maintain safe planned home births. We wish to preserve the right to medical privacy, and the protection of midwives, doulas and birth assistants. Midwifery and home birth must remain a legal option in Hawaii. This is a sad, misguided bill that indeed threatens womens' and families' medical, religious & constitutional rights. I oppose this bill!
998.	Kaohu Dunn	Kula, HI	
999.	ehulani kāne	kaunakakai, HI	
1,000.	Kawena Uyematsu	Kailua, HI	
1,001.	Ululani Pahia	Honolulu, HI	
1,002.	Donnie Adams	Chicago, IL	
1,003.	Kanani Conner	Hawaii, HI	
1,004.	samina quraishi	Jackson Heights, NY	
1,005.	Melelani Hardwick	Bklyn, NY	
1,006.	Tara Crist	seattle, WA	
1,007.	Malia Busby	Kualapuu, HI	
1,008.	Sujana Chand	Henderson, NV	
1,009.	Heather English-Momoa	Lahaina, HI	
1,010.	Lucia Maya	Makawao, HI	
1,011.	mairin darlington	parry sound, Canada	
1,012.	veronica juarez	mt view, HI	
1,013.	John Padilla	round rock, TX	
1,014.	Kourtney Pfoor	Haiku, HI	
1,015.	Linda J Smith	Sebastopol, CA	
1,016.	Lorilani Keohokalole-Torio	Anahola, HI	
1,017.	Sheyna-Marie Chang	wailuku, HI	
1,018.	Brandi Lock	Colorado Springs, CO	
1,019.	Keri Quinsaat	Kahului, HI	
1,020.	Kathryn Xian	Honolulu, HI	
1,021.	Marvin Tevaga	Lahaina, HI	
1,022.	Simon Flaherty	Haiku, HI	Denying anyone's right to a natural home birth is both immoral and unconstitutional.

Name	From	Comments
1,023. Simbralyn Lightsey	Wailuku, HI	
1,024. Barbara Helm	Hoolehua, HI	Again....it's about a woman's choice.
1,025. Carrie Gebb	Haiku, HI	
1,026. sadie watson	kihei, HI	
1,027. Shayla Guthrie	Ft white, FL	
1,028. Sean King	Lahaiana, HI	
1,029. Christy Wong	Kapaa, HI	
1,030. Susan Friar	Kilauea, HI	Midwives have so much experiential knowledge and training behind them. We must support them.
1,031. Marcus Quiniones	Honolulu, HI	
1,032. Theresa Zorzi	Pukalani, HI	
1,033. Shawny Labrador	Lahaina, HI	
1,034. clare loprinzi	kk, HI	enough...midwives can govern themselves
1,035. Ocea Austin	Palmer, AK	
1,036. Mieko Aoki	Kapaa, HI	Oppose and kill bill SB2569 & SB2569, SD1. Women want Midwives for many reasons. Midwives are skilled, trained, experienced, observant, understanding, caring and intuitive, carrying a long line of ancestral knowledge and wisdom that is passed down from their Midwives. There is no need to regulate Midwives from obstetrical/medical model of care/perspective because Midwives have a different approach, the midwifery model of care with their own circle of trust & mentors. If the OBs and MDs would like to participate in the Midwifery model of care, they can ask how and open themselves up to learn.
1,037. jade mcgaff	kamuella, HI	every woman has the RIGHT to birth where, how, and with whom she chooses. OUR RITES!!
1,038. Suzi Nutkins	taupo, New Zealand	
1,039. Mahealani Maioho	Kailua-Kona, HI	
1,040. Sayaka Blakeney	Honolulu, HI	
1,041. Ann Eu	Kilauea, HI	i have had a wonderful homebirth as well as a hospital birth, and both pregnancies had prenatal care from midwives. It was a much more holistic and comprehensive experience for me than what is offered at hospitals and from ob gyn's.
1,042. Amy Rudometkin	paia, HI	I choose midwives!!!
1,043. Chloe Fulton	Seattle, WA	
1,044. Erin Huffman	Haiku, HI	
1,045. Kim Luchau	Kilauea, HI	
1,046. Jessica Lin	Kailua kona, HI	
1,047. Caitlin Odom	Kilauea, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,048. Jeffie Harris	Haiku, HI	
1,049. Nanea Marston	Hanalei, HI	
1,050. Krista Dawn	Paia, HI	
1,051. Vonnie Carter	Kahului, HI	32 years ago I had a home birth. It was one of the best decisions I made in life. It was a happy and safe birth. We were all prepared and trained for the ultimate experience.
1,052. Chyong Shan Lin	Cypress, CA	
1,053. Jennifer Martinez	Honolulu, HI	
1,054. Sasa Eva marston	Hanalei, HI	
1,055. Carrie Hodder	Kapaa, HI	This bill is clearly attempting to take away our rights.
1,056. Rebekah Anderson	kilauea, HI	
1,057. Barbara Barry	Kirkland, WA	Keep Home Births Safe and Legal. Midwives save lives and keep Childbirth Costs down!
1,058. ilima smallwood	haiku, HI	
1,059. Leslie Larsen	Anahola, HI	
1,060. Cynthia Ah Yat	Honolulu, HI	
1,061. Brady Stewart	Kapaa, HI	
1,062. Brent Purdue	Waimanalo, HI	
1,063. Heather Korotie	Captain cook, HI	
1,064. Megan Deets	Lihu, HI	
1,065. Dorthe Jensen	Kapaa, HI	
1,066. Napua Hayward	Naniville, HI	
1,067. Nicolette Aguinaldo	Kapaa, HI	I genuinely feel that based on the Mana Statistics that home birth is safe for mothers to be who get routine up to date care by their Certified and educated midwives. I am a home birthed my self and was also born at home so this is very important to me that I have a choice in where I birth my baby. I encourage those who are in favor of this bill to reach out to the midwifery community and use age old communication and even attend a Home Birth before approving this bill.
1,068. Debralee Kailiwai-Ray	Kailua Kona, HI	
1,069. Maisie Ramage	Makawao, HI	
1,070. Megan Irizarry	beaufort, SC	
1,071. Brittney Pascua	Lihue, HI	
1,072. Bonnie Sharkey	Hendersonville, NC	
1,073. Dan Macdonell	Kihej, HI	
1,075. Douglas Ray	Kailua Kona, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,076. Kari Soares	Kapaa, HI	
1,077. Rose Powers	Randolph, MA	
1,078. Alyssa Hudson	Kihei, HI	
1,079. Arnel Medina	lihue, HI	
1,080. meghan leialoha au	Waimanalo, HI	
1,081. Carlene Allen	Gray, GA	
1,082. Mónica Akamu	kailua, HI	
1,083. Rebekah Fayette	Pinckney, MI	
1,084. Tracy Mullineaux	Lihue, HI	
1,085. Tina McGinnis	Grand Blanc, MI	
1,086. miriam abrin	petaluma, CA	
1,087. joyce ricker	Concord, MA	
1,088. Kelly Lo Cicero	Portland, TX	
1,089. Neely Shasheen Cane	Kauai, United States Minor Outlying Islands	
1,090. Malissia Walker	Lihue, HI	
1,091. Cassandra Brownell	Hanalei, HI	
1,092. Carrie Frank	Portland, OR	
1,093. Priscilla Soule	Kealia, HI	I am currently pregnant with our 2nd child and refuse to have our baby anywhere but in our home under the care of our loving, experienced, and professional midwife. If this bill passes my right to choose where and how I bring my baby into this world has been stripped from me and our family will seriously consider moving elsewhere.
1,094. Kerryann Goodnight	Kapaa, HI	
1,095. kathy freire	lihue, HI	
1,096. Sean St Louis	Kailua Kona, HI	
1,097. Alicia Kam	Kailua-Kona, HI	
1,098. Teagan Bruce	waianae, HI	
1,099. Anastasia Estep	Koloa, HI	
1,100. Kary Medina	Kailua Kona, HI	
1,101. JoAnne Pinney	Princeville, HI	
1,102. Andrea Kaleiohi	Kilauea, HI	
1,103. Missy Foley	Koloa, HI	
1,104. Alexandria Genovia	El Dorado Hills, CA	

Name	From	Comments
1,105. Amanda Cabebe	Koloa, HI	Please listen to the voices of women, babies, and families! Do Not Pass this bill...for the love of tradition, comfort, and tranquility.
1,106. Cambria Wilber	Kalaheo, HI	
1,107. Marisol Carranza	Kapaa, HI	
1,108. Victoria Aoki	Capt cook, HI	
1,109. Erika Empey	Captain Cook, HI	
1,110. Bonnie Elledge	Kapaa, HI	
1,111. Jon Medeiros	Kapaa, HI	
1,112. elissa wood	Lihue, HI	home birth, all the way! it's a woman's right to choose how and where she wants to labor and give birth. Childbirth is a healthy, beautiful, and natural process.
1,113. Sharon Offley	Kapaa, HI	The bill will not achieve stated purpose of 'making home birth safer'. It does not respect or honor women and family's right to choose birth location and attendant. It is based on limited, flawed and controversial data. It is paternalistic and biased regarding the superiority of medical model/hospital based care. Finally, It offers nothing that would genuinely enhance home birth outcomes such as increased communication and collaboration between home and hospital based providers.
1,114. Haley Ferguson	Paia, HI	
1,115. Rebekah Botello	Kaneohe, HI	I have prepared a testimony about my own 2 homebirths and about the 3rd homebirth I am about to embark on. The Senate has NO BUSINESS trying to legislate how a woman chooses to birth her children. I have a right to protect my own body!
1,116. Kimberly Kirk	Princeville, HI	
1,117. Manda McPhee	Kapaa, HI	I oppose this bill because I believe that women should have the right to choose the location and care provider for the birthing of their children. Pregnancy and labor are not illnesses, but are sacred experiences that should not be forced to be held in a hospital, if a woman so chooses.
1,118. Jodee Burris	Koloa, HI	I am strongly opposed to SB 2569. This bill is unnecessary and would limit the choices that women have when it comes to childbirth in Hawaii. Lawmakers should not be regulating a natural process that has occurred since the beginning of time.
1,119. Carleah Fayen	Kalaheo, HI	
1,120. Cyrus Johnsen	Hilo, HI	Me and my wife are yet to birth, but feel as if we have no control these days. Births are a natural process which need not require a hospital or or doctor. As class mamailia we have been birthing naturally from the dawn of time. To take away this right is true example of mental and physical human slavery.

Name	From	Comments
1,121. Jacqueline Lopez	Kapaa, HI	I've had my 2 beautiful and HEALTHY kids at home with mid-wives and cannot imagine having my future kids any other way. It is the woman's and family's right to choose where and how they want to give birth.
1,122. Renee Roquet	San Francisco, CA	
1,123. Deanna Castro	Kamuela, HI	
1,124. Kaleo-o-Kalani Lopez	Kapaa, HI	
1,125. Shannel Ramirez	Kailua-Kona, HI	I am 37 weeks pregnant and will be giving birth to my first child with a midwife at home. I have had a healthy and perfectly sound pregnancy; my boyfriend, family and I couldn't be more excited! Taking away a mothers right to birth her child, one of the most natural and beautiful things a human being can do feels like a complete insult to our natural and civil rights.
1,126. Rebecca Gorsline	Kapaa, HI	
1,127. Tammie Lee Rabara	Kealakekua, HI	
1,128. Katy Rosenbloom	Kapaa, HI	
1,129. Jasmine Stevenson	Redondo beach, CA	
1,131. Jenni BatAlucco	Koloa, HI	
1,132. Amalia Gray	Kapaa, HI	
1,133. Beth Stanek	Kailua kona, HI	
1,134. Jesse Peters	Honolulu, HI	
1,135. Diana Singh	kalaheo, HI	
1,136. chanel leebrun	hanamaulu, HI	
1,137. Sue Saldana	Hanalei, HI	
1,138. Meinda Kolozsi	Győrújbarát, Hungary	Two of my grandchildren were born at home and are healthy and happy.
1,139. Joseph Burris	Kapaa, HI	I am an emergency physician on Kauai, and I do not support this bill.
1,140. Denise hallmeyer	Cayucos, CA	
1,141. Iwalani McCalla	Kailua-Kona, HI	
1,142. Lana Olson	Princeville, HI	
1,143. Yael Claussen	Koloa, HI	
1,144. Alison Thalmann	Princeville, HI	
1,145. Samantha Norton	kapaa, HI	
1,146. Erica Taniguchi	Anahola, HI	
1,147. Chenta Laury	Haiku, HI	
1,148. Aaron Y Takiguchi	Kapaa, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,149. Kuulei Vickery	Kurtistown, HI	
1,150. Erica Pittullo	Hilo, HI	
1,151. amy woodruff	kilauea, HI	
1,152. Leslie Henricks	Hilo, HI	
1,153. Alicia Hubbell	Chula Vista, CA	
1,154. Kellen Ferguson	Kihei, HI	
1,155. devera montfort	dallas, TX	
1,156. Gabriela N	Kekaha, HI	
1,157. Diane Gunder	Riverhead, NY	
1,158. Lisa Alberts	Danville, IA	
1,159. Andrea Meyer	Encinitas, CA	
1,160. dawn zornes	sebastopol, CA	my child was born at home with strong and capable midwives, it was the easiest and safest method. Please don't ban this basic human right!!!!
1,161. Desiree McGuire	Wailuku, HI	
1,162. Jennifer Hotopp	Prarieville, LA	
1,163. carly arace	templeton, CA	
1,164. Gina Vogel	Princeville, HI	
1,165. eleanor crane	tarpon springs, FL	MOVE FORWARD not BACKWARDS !!!
1,167. Heidi Illustre-Boatright	Honolulu, HI	
1,168. Ahonui Bowman	Anatolia, HI	
1,169. Nimue Robinson	Comptche, CA	Almost every baby I know was birthed with a midwife.
1,170. Terri Ewton	Kilauea, HI	
1,171. Sarah Kruse	Kilauea, HI	My daughter was born at home very safely and I know countless other families who have given birth at home with positive outcomes. We have many skilled midwives in Hawaii who should be allowed to continue practicing as they are now. I oppose Bill 2569!!!
1,172. Cathryn Jensen	Kamuela, HI	
1,173. Victoria Chesney	Yreka, CA	
1,174. Maraya Ben-Joseph	honaunua, HI	please dont take away my rights as a mother.
1,175. Justin Keka	Keaau, HI	
1,176. cathy moore	Ashland, OR	
1,177. Jacqueline Medford	portland, OR	This bill is an injustice to families rights to give birth with integrity where they want to! To nearly make home birth illegal in the state of Hawaii, would be forcing mothers who choose to home birth to potentially go underground in <i>(continues on next page)</i>

Name	From	Comments
1,177. Jacqueline Medford	portland, OR	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> finding illegal care providers which may pose a risk to herself and her baby.
1,178. Leslie Wingate	Pahoa, HI	
1,179. Christopher Gautrau	New Milford, CT	
1,180. Josiah Edlund	Pompano Beach, FL	
1,181. Taylor Tengwall	Duluth, MN	
1,182. Marcos Juarez-Gosselin	Woodbury, MN	Its just deosnt seem rational.
1,183. Hildegard D'Alessio	Makawao, HI	
1,184. Pearl Meeko	Pahoa, HI	
1,185. Emma Gay	Captain Cook, HI	
1,186. Jessica Crane	Kalaheo, HI	
1,187. Hui-Yong Kim	portland, OR	
1,188. Nana Williams	Kapaa, United States Minor Outlying Islands	
1,189. Ashley Homan	Lawai, HI	
1,190. Wendi Mayhugh	Honolulu, HI	
1,191. Yasuko Schlather	Makawao, HI	
1,192. mary ramirez	santa clara, NM	
1,193. Chanel Baran	Kewarra Beach, Australia	
1,194. Hillary Kusko	Kailua, HI	Women have a right to give birth in their own homes and lawmakers should not try to tell us otherwise.
1,195. Eliana Sattler	Holualoa, HI	
1,196. Irene Asing	Waimanalo, HI	
1,197. walter ritte	Kaunakakai, HI	
1,198. Laura Beland	Kapaa, HI	
1,199. Robin Rose	Kaunakakai, HI	
1,200. Vivian Lee	Honolulu, HI	
1,201. todd hammond	Kaneohe, HI	
1,202. Barry Levine	Kealakekua, HI	
1,204. jesse remer	Portland, OR	
1,205. eder velasco	honolulu, HI	
1,206. Yayoi Hara	Lahaina, HI	Trust us to make decision for ourselves. Why keep taking away people's freedom to choose? What is the point of being American?

Name	From	Comments
1,207. Debbie LaMacchia	Miami, FL	
1,208. Johanna Mandt	Seattle, WA	
1,209. Jennifer Eng	Hilo, HI	
1,210. Sunday Hanchett	Hilo, HI	
1,211. Jaclyn Albright	waiialua, HI	I oppose this bill because I believe that women should have the right to choose the location and care provider for the birthing of their children. Pregnancy and labor are not illnesses, but are sacred experiences that should not be forced to be held in a hospital, if a woman so chooses.
1,212. Courtney Cabral-Thompson	Lawai, HI	
1,213. Jessica Scarlett	Gresham, OR	
1,214. Lindsay Nollsch	Narr, RI	
1,215. Whitby Bierwolf	truckee, CA	
1,216. Frances Feeter	Kaunakakai, HI	
1,217. Meleana Judd-cox	Haleiwa, HI	
1,218. Mishi Clauberg	Honokaa, HI	
1,219. emma stephens	worcs, United Kingdom	
1,220. Matt Blais	Keaau, HI	
1,221. Brenna Stratton	San anselmo, CA	
1,222. Angela Cruz	Keaau, HI	
1,223. Stephanie Ortega	Aspen, CO	I am a woman and I deserve to have my own rights when deciding whether to have a baby at home.
1,224. Mindy Mcpeek	kaneohe, HI	
1,225. Autumn Sims	Junction city, OH	
1,226. Nicole Izak	Kaneohe, HI	
1,227. Elizabeth Weltin	Bend, OR	
1,228. Meagan McGinity	Paia, HI	
1,229. Jon Ciser	Haiku, HI	
1,230. Julia Koetter	Dortmund, Germany	
1,231. Megan Moniz	Honolulu, HI	
1,232. Allyson Franco	Kailua, HI	
1,233. Rebecca Buehler	Saint Paul, MN	
1,234. Golie Keovan	Chicago, IL	
1,235. Ian McPhee	Kapaa, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,236. Maria Guerriero	Punaluu, HI	Giving birth is a natural and healthy part of life. Women need options to find the best fit for them and their delivery care needs. Home births have been a safe and effective way to for women to have their children up until the trend brought the into the hospital setting. This may be very costly and women often feel pressured to have medical procedures that may not be warranted or wanted. There is a place for hospitals and the main stream medical delivery of care however it is not the only way and not right for all people. Please give families the choice to do what is right for them.
1,237. Laura Dvorak	Pahoa, HI	
1,238. amandine murphy	201, HI	please do not take our god given rights
1,239. kirsten chase	Kilauea, HI	
1,240. Sally French	Kalaheo, HI	
1,241. Patricia Gray	Asheville, NC	
1,242. Daisy Finch	Kula, HI	
1,243. Skylar Mallas	Kapaa, HI	
1,244. bryan brey	pahoa, HI	
1,245. Kathy Fleming	Keahou, HI	
1,246. Daniel Darby	Kapaa, HI	
1,247. Emily Presley	Hanalei, HI	As a woman preparing for childbearing, I seek to give birth at home, like the billions of women who have done so throughout history. Home birth is a safe option for normal births--safer than hospitals, in many cases. The study upon which this bill was created has been widely discredited due to its gross methodological errors. If you truly care about maternal and neonatal health, kill this bill and do more research.
1,248. Kiah Zupke	Minneapolis, MN	
1,249. Savannah Rubino	Saint Augustine, FL	
1,250. Naia Leigh	kilauea, HI	
1,251. Charlene samuelson	pahoa, HI	
1,252. Bonnie Rasmussen	Kalaheo, HI	
1,253. Rachel West	Haiku, HI	
1,254. Vincent Coco	Rio Grande, NJ	
1,255. Albert lopez	kapaa, HI	
1,256. Kanoa Mayer	Kapaa, GU	
1,257. Jillian Seals	Kilauea, HI	
1,258. Dominik Walczuk	Hilo, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,259. Lisa Martin	Honolulu, HI	
1,260. Claude Hutchins	Las Vegas, NV	
1,261. molly jewell	honolulu, HI	
1,262. Shea Petty	Honolulu, HI	
1,263. Sheldon Haupu	Wailuku,, HI	
1,264. marian tiemann	san jose, CA	
1,265. Ashley Johnson	Kapaa, HI	
1,266. Jennifer Dant	Kailua Kona, HI	
1,267. Eileen Irvine	Kapaa, HI	
1,268. Allison Vincent	Honolulu, HI	
1,269. Lori Kimata	Hon, HI	
1,270. tomas del amo	kailua, HI	
1,271. Melina Castro	Pahoa, HI	
1,272. lauren achitoff	kaaawa, HI	
1,273. Kyah Hamilton	princeville, HI	
1,274. Bridget Mowat	Kaunakakai, HI	
1,275. Alfred Ikeler	Honolulu, HI	
1,276. Malia Locey	anahola, HI	
1,277. Aimee Sharp	Kilauea, HI	
1,278. Brittani Zarnay	Mililani, HI	
1,279. Amanda Thomas	Sebastopol, CA	
1,280. Tiana Rey	Honolulu, HI	
1,281. Darrell Parfitt	Kahuluu, HI	
1,282. Dan Kelly	Hakalau, HI	it ain't broke. don't fix it.
1,283. Serena Lynch	Portland, OR	
1,284. ingrid Webb	pahoa, HI	
1,285. Kira Souza	Honokaa, HI	
1,286. Sheila Moss	Chico, CA	
1,287. Paolo Morgan	kailua kona, HI	I was born at home in 1979. My wife gave birth to our 4 children at home. This is a human rights issue. It is a woman's right to choose where she births!
1,288. Shayne Fillmore	Honaunau, HI	I am the first born of five all successful home births. My last two children were born at home by my wife who was considered a high risk pregnancy. She was a double VBAC (vaginal birth after two c-sections). Our midwife assisted her in two natural home births with out complications and successfully. The power of choice and the freedom to do what we desire especially when it comes to our body, life, and faith should never be in the state and or governments <i>(continues on next page)</i>

Name	From	Comments
1,288. Shayne Fillmore	Honaunau, HI	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> hands. This measure is violating our human rights. I strongly oppose this measure. Thank you in advance, Shayne Fillmore
1,289. Brianna Kleinhans	Mililani, HI	
1,290. Michelle McNeal	Shreveport, LA	
1,291. jana livingston	rainier, OR	i am not for monsanto and gmo -
1,292. Rebecca Fong	Kailua Kona, HI	My daughter gave birth to my 4 grandchildren at home in Hawaii with a traditionally trained midwife. This issue falls under a women's right to choose. Giving birth in a place of your choice, with a midwife of your choice is a basic human right!
1,293. megan serhan	seven Hills, OH	
1,294. nancy kowardy	papaaloo, HI	
1,295. Robert Siles	Conifer, CO	
1,296. Kaiulani Cook	Aiea, HI	
1,297. Julie Ahl	ahoa, HI	
1,298. Kadie Barber	Estacada, OR	
1,300. LARINA HAWKINS	HONOLULU, HI	
1,301. Julia Rizzo	Nashville, TN	
1,302. Bethany Brown	Kailua, HI	
1,303. Becca Zollinger	gig harbor, WA	
1,304. Leasi Andrews	Los Angeles, CA	
1,305. Kelley Rizzo	Redwood, NY	
1,306. Karen Lin	New York, NY	
1,307. Rod Miller	Pahoa, HI	
1,308. Stephanie Nichols	Chico, CA	
1,309. Jessica Arnett	Papa'aloa, HI	
1,310. Kimberly Rose	San Diego, CA	As a Labor & Delivery nurse, I understand the risks of child birth in the home and in the hospital (where we often intervene unnecessarily). How one chooses to have a baby is a very personal choice and a basic human right. All expectant mothers should educate themselves thoroughly prior to deciding which setting is best for them and their baby.
1,311. Ebony Benzie	Donnybrook, Australia	
1,312. Dan Knudsen	Kapaa, HI	
1,313. bobbie ann werre	Lanai city, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,314. Jeremiah Oldfather	Honokaa, HI	
1,315. dolores burke	castro valley, CA	
1,316. Nikiya White	Pāhoa, HI	
1,317. Blaze Strickland	Fairfield, IA	
1,318. JAMES RIDINGS	KAPAA, HI	Protect our Religious Freedoms and the Mother's Right to Choose Home Births.
1,319. Shaye Smallwood	San Rafael, CA	
1,320. Tara Bowman	Kailua, HI	
1,321. Nia Fitzpatrick	Aptos, CA	
1,322. Yee Chiew Chan	Keauhou, HI	
1,323. Yael Werber	Somerville, MA	
1,324. Christine Merritt	Hilo, HI	
1,325. Meghan van Bergeijk	Kailua, HI	
1,326. miki hirakawa	key west, FL	
1,327. Kelsey Fagan	Juneau, AK	
1,328. Leanne Boyd	Kailua, HI	
1,330. Claire McGuire	Pahoa, HI	home birth is vital to women's ability to make choices...
1,331. Anon Shine	Pahoa, HI	
1,332. Lisa DelViscovo	Kapaa, HI	Having birthed in both hospital and at home, I can honestly say that home birth was by far a better experience. Don't let Hawaii go into a dark age. Let women choose what's best for them.
1,333. Kilin Reece	Kailua, HI	
1,334. Brian Tucker	Keaau, HI	
1,335. Kalalaniamakalii Joao	Wailuku, HI	
1,336. Susan Shehata	minneapolis, MN	
1,337. Sarah Kihoi-Low	Honaunau, HI	
1,338. Aliza Milette-Winfree	Honolulu, HI	
1,339. rachel anderson	Wisconsin rapids, WI	
1,340. Anna Wehl	mt view, HI	
1,341. Barry Gallafent	Lahaina, HI	
1,342. Landon Labrador	koloa, HI	
1,343. Melanie Andes	Kailua, HI	
1,344. James Lake	Winnipeg, Canada	
1,345. Kathleen Barks	Pahoa, HI	

Name	From	Comments
1,346. Terrance Planty	Sebastopol, CA	
1,347. Steven Oshiro	Mililani, HI	A woman has the right to choose where she will give birth, Don't make things difficult
1,348. Lisa Oyama	Mililani, HI	
1,349. Crystal Homcy	Haleiwa, HI	
1,350. Kim Rinaldo	Halifax, Canada	
1,351. summer greenhalgh	haiku, HI	
1,352. Sarah Daigle	Honolulu, HI	
1,353. Norman Miyasato	Kaneohe, HI	
1,354. Lauren Zarnay	Altus, OK	
1,355. Melanie Reed	Boston, MA	
1,356. Krystina Thomas	Milwaukie, OR	
1,357. Olivia Wilson	Hilo, HI	
1,358. Brie McFarland	La Costa, CA	
1,359. cheryl greenwood	Kailua-kona, HI	
1,360. Keenan Cheney	Waialua, HI	
1,361. Katie Guidotti	Medford, OR	
1,362. Hallelujah Duncan	Haiku, HI	
1,363. Isabel Marquez	Pahoa, HI	
1,364. Molly Center	Elgin, IL	
1,365. Faye Hoek	Captian cook, HI	
1,366. Mary Remer	Naalehu, HI	
1,367. Kristy Newell	Williams, OR	
1,368. Kendra Schneider	Kailua, HI	
1,369. paul mallen	Duncan, Canada	
1,370. Sarah Schrodetz	Santa Cruz, CA	
1,371. Alicia Yang	Honolulu, HI	
1,372. Danielle Reghi	Portland, OR	Home birth creates as safe atmosphere for a woman to labor in a low stress and comfortable environment. It should be a womans right to labor where she wants. This bill infringes on civil liberties and I find it to be inhumane honestly.
1,373. Megan Kirkpatrick	Princeville, HI	
1,375. Taryn Silva	Waialua, HI	
1,376. Maren Anka	Makawao, HI	Safe and legal access to homebirth needs to be an option in Hawaii! There are international studies, showing how midwives reduce medical interventions and consistently deliver healthy babies, in a safe and loving way. Limiting a <i>(continues on next page)</i>

Name	From	Comments
1,376. Maren Anka	Makawao, HI	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> woman's right to choose and reducing access to birthing options is morally reprehensible. Please kill this bill and protect midwifery!
1,377. Michael Tada	Honolulu, HI	
1,378. MJ Remer	Portland, OR	
1,379. Christine Scarlett	New Port Richey, FL	
1,380. jen richmond	hilo, HI	I was appalled to see a notice on the wall of my Ob-Gyn stating they would not participate in any kind of home birth. What is wrong with you folks? Who would want to be in a hospital for a naturally occurring event? If the mom and keiki are low-risk, there is NO REASON to subject them to a stressful, expensive hospital stay. It's a birth, not heart surgery. Midwives have been doing this for hundreds (maybe thousands) of years. Let's take back our right to choose.
1,381. Melekai Jenson	paia, HI	
1,382. Lindsay Matthews	Kapaa, GU	
1,383. Allison Murphy	Spring valley, CA	
1,384. Usha Kotner	Kealakekua, HI	
1,385. Lauren Ramskov	San diego, CA	
1,386. yun yi	honolulu, HI	
1,387. Jocelyn Dugan	Coarsegold, CA	
1,388. David Oana	Pukalani, HI	
1,389. Jasmine Thomas	Los Angeles, CA	
1,390. Andrea Bertoli	Honolulu, HI	
1,391. Robin Knox	Kihei, HI	
1,392. Melissa Gutierrez	Pahoa, HI	
1,393. Gloria Baraquio	Inglewood, CA	Women need options in how they can bring their sacred child onto this earth. There's nothing illegal about one of the most natural practices of the animal kingdom.
1,394. Mariya Gold	Kailua, HI	
1,395. Aurelia Kinslow	Honokaa, HI	
1,396. Sara Tekula	Makawao, HI	
1,397. Sumi Hisahara	Anahola, HI	
1,398. Dawn Kanoho	Waipahu, HI	
1,399. Robert Stewart	hilo, HI	
1,400. Kat Tracy	Kahului, HI	
1,401. Julie Bana	kilauea, HI	
1,402. Sara Roth	Novato, CA	

Name	From	Comments
1,403. Kathleen Viernes	Hanamaualu, HI	
1,404. Aesha Shapiro	Kailua-Kona, HI	
1,405. Lanae Anakalea	Hanalei, HI	women should be free to select their birthing options without government/business restraint or interference as in inherent human right. i am a mother of two
1,406. Makana Green	Hanalei, HI	
1,407. J Chin	Pukalani, HI	
1,408. Melissa Wickey	Waialua, HI	
1,409. christy vail	Makawao, HI	I know many women who've given birth at home and many children who were born at home. I don't believe it's inherently dangerous and I think it should be a choice.
1,410. Alekona Surento	Brooklyn, NY	
1,411. Melissa Rosen	Honolulu, HI	
1,412. uma Miller	Aptos, CA	
1,413. Amal Hadari	Honolulu, HI	
1,414. Ben Kinsey	Honolulu, HI	
1,415. Sue Kinsey	Honolulu, HI	
1,416. Paul Gregory	Palm Springs, CA	PROTECTION!!
1,417. natalie norberg	Paia, HI	
1,418. Jennifer Bonifacio	Kapolei, HI	Do not take away a mother to be's right to choose where she wants to give birth.
1,419. Preston Palmer	Kihei, HI	
1,420. Pomai Weigert	Kihei, HI	
1,421. Daniqua Hall	Kapaa, HI	
1,422. Lisa Villiarimo	Puunene, HI	
1,423. Riand Souther	Kailua kona, HI	
1,424. Karen Dizney	Mililani, HI	
1,425. Angela Hoover	Kapaa, HI	
1,426. Sara Saylor	Kapaa, HI	
1,427. Aren Thompson	Kailua Kona, HI	
1,428. Anthony Ahkoi	hayward, CA	Don't force participation in State and city run institutions. We gave birth LONG before they came
1,429. Norio Narui	Honokaa, HI	
1,430. Shauna Burton	Fridley, MN	

TESTIMONY of
KIM KU'ULEI BIRNIE
Before
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH,
COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION and JUDICIARY & LABOR
Monday, February 10, 2014, 1:30 PM, Senate conference room 229

SB 2569 & SB 2569 SD1: RELATING TO HOME BIRTH

In Opposition

Greetings to Dr. Green, Senator Baker & Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee & Senator Shimabukuro, members of the committees,

I work for an Hawaiian health organization, and help to manage the hui of Hawaiian physicians. Today, I am here as a mother, a Hawaiian, a grandmother whose 3 mo'opuna were born at home, as planned. I strongly oppose SB 2569 and its SD1.

Please know that I am encouraged by this public discussion of home birth and its practitioners. I am encouraged, because in 1981-82, I was only able to find three midwives in Hawai'i, and now there's a whole community with a broad range of diverse birth practitioners that women can more easily access.

I am encouraged, because when I was the placement director for the federally funded Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program from 1997-2002, I had the responsibility of placing into the community the only masters level certified nurse midwife. She had more than 100 deliveries under her belt; however, when she returned home to Hawai'i, we both learned that she would have few opportunities to deliver babies, as she was trained. I am encouraged because the tight network of obstetricians that has long created barriers preventing other birth practitioners from delivering babies is now compelled to learn more about home birth and home birth practitioners, their training, standards of care, and community demand.

I am encouraged because when my daughter chose home birth in 2005, the entire family became more educated, and with each birth, more competent and aware of the resources and options available. I am encouraged because the opportunity to share information with those unfamiliar with home birth and midwifery is ripe. I can tell you that three babies have been born in my home between 2006 and 2013 with the assistance of two doulas and 4 different midwives, two of them naturopaths. Prior to one birth, the midwife requested a blood panel; in late stages of another, the mother was prepped for the possibility of going to the nearby medical center. In all cases, oxygen was on hand in the house. In all births, the Apgar scores were high, and the babies bonded with the mother and other family members right away.

I am encouraged because Senator Green's recent news release reflects a greater understanding of home birth as a woman's freedom of choice. However, it appears the news release and SB 2569 have different writers, because the proposals in the bill and its SD1 do not reflect the issues that have been brought to member in recent weeks.

And that is why I cannot support SB 2569 in any form.

The proposed HOME BIRTH BOARD is based on a medical model of birth, not a midwifery model. It doesn't include all types of practitioners. Those that are excluded may be criminalized, should this bill pass in to law. By not enveloping all practitioners and settings of birth, families' personal choices are restricted.

Although it presents as a medical model, it imposes requirements on midwives that do not exist for medical and allied health professionals. Particularly offensive is § -2 (b)(3) requiring three obstetricians with hospital privileges to oversee midwives assisting homebirths. Not only does it reinforce a medical model of birth, but it perpetuates the ob-gyn status quo as the exclusive group with hospital privileges.

Birthing is a universal practice. Traditions vary from community to community and nowhere is this especially true but here in Hawai'i.

There is a growing community of educated Hawaiian women and their families who are choosing home birth. As in most Hawaiian traditions, there is a spiritual element to hapai (pregnancy), hanau (childbirth) and raising children. We are looking at the model of kupuna councils to shape a Home Birth Council.

One of the best things about pregnancy is the 9 month gestation period. In my family, it gave us time to learn the statistics on and resources available for home birth, as well as to understand what the safety concerns are, and to plan for all scenarios.

We ask this legislature for 9 months so that Hawai'i's birthing community can accomplish two things that will benefit us all:

- Home Birth Council. We have already begun to form a council that reflects the variety of practices, mothers and advocates. This Council, modeled after kupuna councils of traditional healers, shall be self-defined and self-regulated. Dialogue will generate definitions, criteria, standards of care, education & training, genealogy, and other factors appropriate for Hawai'i.
- Snapshot of Midwifery and Homebirth in Hawai'i. We request the opportunity to gather data, standards of care, and wise practices to present before the legislature in the Fall of 2014. A legislative informational hearing will provide the opportunity to present information about the status of homebirth in Hawai'i, the spectrum of home birth practitioners, their education and training, and existing standards of care.

An informational hearing in the Fall will better prepare all of us to create a position about home birth and midwifery that is inclusive of mothers and all practitioners, honors women; reproductive rights and freedom to choose the setting and individual she wishes to attend her in childbirth.

Mahalo for the opportunity to OPPOSE SB 2569.

O wau no me ka ha'aha'a,

/s/ Kim Ku'u lei Birnie
Honolulu 96822 & Kailua 96734
Phone: (808) 383-1651 E-mail: kkb@aloha.net

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

Hearing Date: 2/10/2014 1:30pm Room229

RE: SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home birth

I oppose these bills because they minimize the large body of knowledge that has been held and shared by women for generations. It seeks to take power away from women to make the choices that are most appropriate for them, and will limit women's options so that otherwise low-risk women have no choice but to see a surgeon for their primary pregnancy care (as obstetricians are trained surgeons). Numerous studies have examined the safety of homebirth and have found it to be a safe option, including two that were published within the past week.

We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Midwifery fits very well within the broader medical community and should be embraced and integrated into Hawaii's childbirth system, not shunned as some radical practice. This bill will restrict the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose.

If the legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Senator Green's press release indicates, then adequate time should be taken by the legislature to learn about the differences between the midwifery model of care vs. the medical model of care. It is my hope that this bill does not pass in its current form as I find it insults the body of knowledge women have shared for centuries as well as women's rights to select their own pregnancy providers. But I hope the dialogue that has begun with the introduction of this bill will ultimately lead to the acceptance of and integration of midwifery into Hawaii's medical community.

Sincerely,

Shanna Grafeld

REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

For: Honorable Senate Committee Health Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members,
Hearing: February 10, 2014, 1:30 p.m. Rm 229

RE: **SB 2569 Relating to Home Birth – IN OPPOSITION**

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Lani Lee, and I am a mother of two children, whom I gave birth to at home with my midwife/naturopathic physician. My husband (who has also submitted testimony in opposition to these Bills) and doula were also a large part of my birth experiences, which I believe were possible because I chose to give birth at home. Whenever I reflect upon the significant and amazing events of my children's births, I am all the more grateful and resolute about my decision to have had a home birth. On a very personal level, delivering at home made the experience all the more special and memorable. On a medical level, utilizing natural methods of pain management, comfort, and treatment practiced by a skilled and trained midwife allowed me to successfully give birth to my babies with minimal-to-no interventions and drugs.

Just as there is the theory and practice of medicine – or in this case, midwifery – there is also the theory and practice of law. As laws are created to protect consumers and ensure safety, lawmakers also have the obligation to consider and protect the balance of law and humanity. Legislation cannot simply be a litany of burdensome or unrealistic rules and regulation. Bills SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 propose to heavily regulate the practice of midwifery in Hawaii, and as it is currently written, will make it virtually impossible for midwives to practice, or continue practicing this time-honored tradition.

**For the aforementioned reasons, and the following below, I respectfully oppose SB2569
AND SB2569 SD1:**

These Bills suggest home birth is dangerous and unsafe. I join other home birth practitioners, mothers and advocates to correct this misconception. While home birth is not for everyone, it is also not necessarily true that home birth is less safe than a hospital birth. We realize there is a responsibility to provide data, education, and information about home birth practices, training, and experiences to the legislature and community-at-large to bring awareness of the fact that home birth can be a safe, natural,

and completely viable choice. It is essential that the home birthing community be given the opportunity to present these facts and information to support and validate its practices.

As written, this bill would essentially eliminate the option of finding a legal home birth attendant. It is the rite/right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth her child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. Furthermore, this bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose.

I do thank the Honorable Senator Josh Green, the Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, and all the Committee members for their concern in this matter and for the time that was put into drafting these Bills. However, I feel it is important to conduct further research and establish more dialogue with the home birth professionals and community before voting in any legislation about midwifery in Hawaii. I respectfully request that the evaluating Committees of SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 provide an opportunity to work **with** the home birth professionals and community and work **together** to create fair and sound regulation as necessary rather than simply signing the Bills as they are currently written into law.

Sincerely,

Lani Lee

February 10, 2014
Monday
1:30 PM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair - Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair - Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Pai-Jong Stacy Tsai

Re: SB 2065/SB2065SD1, Relating to Health

Position: Strongly support licensure, patient safety rules/regulations, informed consent, data collection, and establishment of a board to ensure Home Birth Safety in Hawaii as per Hawaii ACOG testimony

Dear Senators Green, Baker, Hee and members of the Committees on Health, Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Judiciary and Labor:

I personally cared for a patient who attempted to deliver at home with a previous cesarean section. She was admitted to the hospital immediately after delivery due to postpartum hemorrhage (excessive bleeding immediately after delivery). We were worried that she may have ruptured her uterus, which is life-threatening complication in someone who had a previous cesarean scar. It is not standard of care to offer home delivery to someone who had a previous cesarean delivery due to the risk of uterine rupture that can quickly lead to maternal and neonatal mortality. This patient was fortunate that her bleeding stopped after administration of medications.

I am very concerned about the safety of our mothers and their babies who opt for a planned home birth. The most recent and largest study to date reveals that there is a four-fold increased risk of neonatal death associated with home birth. In addition, there is a seven-fold increased risk of neonatal death for first time mothers who deliver at home and a ten – fold increased risk for pregnancies more than 41 weeks gestation. [Grunebaum A, Chervenak F, etal. Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Abstract. February 7, 2014.]

Currently, there is no licensure, and therefore no patient safety rules and regulations regarding home birth. There are many complications that can occur, particularly with high-risk pregnancies. However, even low-risk pregnancies can quickly, within a few minutes or even seconds, become high-risk during the labor and delivery process.

To ensure that all of Hawaii's mothers and babies have a safe and happy birth experience, I urge you to support the Home Birth Safety bill. This bill will ensure that home birth providers have had formal obstetrics education to care for mothers and infants, follow patient safety regulations such as no high-risk pregnancy deliveries at home, adequately inform their patients regarding their educational background and the possible risks of home birth, and require the timely completion of birth certificates and other data for all planned home births.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on this very important Women's Health issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pai-Jong Stacy Tsai', written over a horizontal line.

Pai-Jong Stacy Tsai, MD, MPH

Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

I Sayaka Blakene, **oppose** this bill because it is based on the false presumption that home birth is unsafe. Home birth is very safe as shown in various studies, when attended by trained midwives.

I have just given birth to my fourth child at the comfort of my home with one of the leading midwife and I would have to say that it was the most comfortable and easy labor out of all four children and I would recommend it to future mothers. It would be so sad and heard breaking to see something wonderful I experienced to be so limited in the future because of this bill.

This bill does not take into consideration the various types of midwives and is trying to put a medical/hospital model in an out-of-hospital setting. This is unrealistic and will eliminate the option for families to choose to have a safe homebirth because there will not be anyone to attend these births legally.

I ask that the homebirth community is given the time to present you with current, factual information and come up with a bill that will include various homebirth providers as well as OBs and will serve and protect those families who choose homebirth.

Aloha and Mahalo

Sayaka Blakeney

From: [morikawa2-Joanna](#) on behalf of [HLTtestimony](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: SB 2569
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 8:50:35 AM

From: maile davis [mailto:mailedavis@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:11 AM
To: HLTtestimony; CPCtestimony; JUDtestimony
Cc: Sen. Josh Green; Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. Brian Taniguchi; Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Maile Shimabukuro; Sen. J. Kalani English
Subject: SB 2569

[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH](#)

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

[COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION](#)

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR](#)

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in Opposition of SB 2569

I am writing to you today with concerns and a strong opposition about SB 2569 on behalf of myself, husband and four daughters. I was born and raised in Haiku Maui and one of the reasons I chose to stay in Haiku and raise my family is because of the cultural aspects, it's diversity and feeling of aloha when considering all aspects of different ways to raise our own families. SB 2569 is a good idea in theory but there should be more discussion and better research to support the facts that are currently used in the bill. Hawaii has always been a leader in many ways and this is one example in which we will fall behind in the rest of the nation and world. We must seriously reconsider if this is something that we want to happen. As mentioned before, my husband who is employed by the Federal Government as a Air Traffic Controller and my self as a small business owner, we are raising four daughters between the ages of 11 to 2. We have one being home schooled, one attending Kamehameha school and another at our local public school. We are active in our community spending countless hours volunteer in all our their schools and many more hours for the many sports they are involved in, including soccer, dance, music, horses and polo. Three of them were lovingly brought into the world by Dr. Inoyne at Maui Memorial Hospital and our last was born in our home by a certified midwife (although under the current law that is being proposed she would not be 'certified' any longer). All my births were wonderful but having the choice to have them where I chose was key. I consider my self well educated, have a BA degree and am in touch with my own health. I did my research when pregnant and choosing how and where to have my children. I was very happy with my doctor and hospital experience but felt there was more to the birthing experience and chose to have my last at home. There is always a fear to the unknown but that does not make it wrong, as in the choice to having a child at home. It aligned with our families spiritual and cultural believes and as a woman I feel it is a personal choice that we should not be denied having. I chose to use a mid-wife who has a licensed in New Mexico but lives in Maui as well part-time and practices in a successful business which is legal and encouraged in New Mexico- but would not be here under the current bill. I hate to think of the options other women might have to go through if things

change with the SB 2569. I would like to also have all my daughters allowed the same choice. They deserve to be able to make an informed discussion and choose the birth choice that they want. I find it hard to believe that, in Hawaii, which prides ourselves to being so open- will not be closed off to what is allowed in virtually all other states. Why we would want to close ourselves off to that would be a mistake. Yes, there should be some allowance and accountability but we must reconsider what is being proposed today. I ask you for your support in doing so and to opposed the bill as it is written now.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Jonathand and Maile Davis
4483 Opana Place
Haiku Maui
96708

REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

For: Honorable Senate Committee Health Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members,

RE: **SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth - IN OPPOSITION**

To my Legislators: who represent the State of Hawaii:

I am writing in comment to S.B. No. 2569 and S.B. No. 2569 SD1 as a former and future Hawaii resident.

I was raised in a family that had little to no understanding natural childbirth. I was born planned cesarean birth because my brother born 4 years before me, was an 'emergency cesarean' because he had the cord wrapped around his neck.

My daughter was born 3 ½ years ago at our beautiful home in Hawaii above the Kaneohe Bay. We experience a smooth, intense, and very successful natural home birth. She also had the cord wrapped around her neck, but the midwife very easily pulled the wrap off her neck. To tell you the truth, I didn't even notice it happened or was a problem, because it was resolved so fast.

This made me see how easily what is called an "emergency" in the hospital is really an easily resolved common occurrence in birth. Knowing facts like this makes me question some of the stringent practices that don't need to occur. To each there own. However, having experienced how wonderful homebirth can be, and how much better for the baby and family it is, I avidly SUPPORT the practice of midwifery and homebirth.

Births like cesareans are documented to have life long psychological issues and challenges. I believe that if my brother and I were born at home with a midwife, he would not have had to be cesarean and neither would I. Now, knowing the challenges that I live with everyday that relate to my hospital birth, I strongly appose the Bill being proposed and plea for the freedom of Licensed Midwives to practice at home birth and the right for woman to choose their care providers.

These are several other reasons to oppose SB 2569 and 2569 SD1:

1. On its face, this bill is inaccurate. It cites a flawed study, and it suggests home birth is dangerous and unsafe. I join other home birth practitioners, mothers and advocates to correct that notion. We realize that we have a responsibility to provide data and information about our home birth practices, our training, and our experiences to the legislature and community-at-large.

2. This bill currently tries to define a scope of practice without an in depth understanding of the various practitioners, roles and responsibilities involved in home birth. The medical hospital-based model it imposes doesn't take into account the population it is regulating and doesn't accurately represent different models of home birthing, each with unique traditions, scopes of practice, varying types of practitioners and their educational backgrounds, safety protocols and standards of care that are already in place.

3. The Home Birth Safety Board is also based on a medical model, and it does not reflect the culture and practice of home birth. It doesn't even reflect the participants of home birth practice. This bill assumes there is no oversight over home birth; in fact, midwives have the capacity to govern themselves.

4. As written, this bill would essentially eliminate the option of finding a legal home birth attendant. It is the rite/right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth their child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. Furthermore, this bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose. Requiring a registry of home birth mothers, for example, fosters stigma around home birth, a scarlet letter. Laws are created to protect consumers and ensure safety. But lawmakers also have the obligation to protect long standing cultural practices of birth.

5. Home birth is a deeply cultural practice that is both respected and honored. We are all descended from an ancestor who gave birth at home. It must be viewed in the context of a cultural, traditional, spiritual belief and practice, which is protected by law.

For all of these reasons and more, I strongly oppose this bill as it stands. The imposition of these state regulations simply does not take into account the important perspectives of the birth practitioners, the mothers, and advocates of home birth.

Yet, we recognize the need for more information and offer the following:

- We have already begun to form a Home Birth Council that reflects the variety of practices, mothers and advocates. This Council shall be self-defined and self-regulated.
- We request the opportunity to gather data, standards of care, and wise practices to present before the legislature at a later date.
- We request a legislative informational hearing that provides the opportunity to present information about the spectrum of home birth practitioners, their education and training, and existing standards of care.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter for our future!

Evidence in support of point #1

1. Planned Home vs Hospital Birth: A Meta-Analysis Gone Wrong, Medscape Ob/Gyn & Women's Health 4/1/2011 (<http://cfpcwp.com/MCDG/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Medscape-Wax-Critique-Michal-Janssen-Vedam-Hutton-de-Jonge.pdf>)

2. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse - Vital Statistics Hawaii
(<http://www.hhdw.org/cms/index.php?page=vital-statistics>)
3. BMJ 2005;330;1416 Outcomes of planned home birth with certified professional midwives; large prospective study in North America
4. BJOG, 2009 Aug; 116(9):1177-84 Perinatal mortality and morbidity in a nationwide cohort of 529,688 low risk planned home and hospital births
5. The Myth of a Safer Hospital Birth for Low Risk Pregnancies
(<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/myth-safer-hospital-birth-low-risk-pregnancies>)
6. AND MORE – add your own strongest studies, there are many!

To the Honorable Chair and Committee members of
Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection and Judiciary and Labor,
Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.

B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislatures right to decide how and where someone can birth.

C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.

D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful deliberation on this matter.

Casey Holaday

1. To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,
2. Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
3. RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth
4. Oppose
5. Four main points:
 - A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.
 - B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislatures right to decide how and where someone can birth.
 - C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.
 - D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

Dear Legislatures

I stand in opposition in regards to both SB 2569 and SB2569 SD1 relating to home birth. I feel that natural and cultural practices relating to birth are being threatened by these bills. Every individual should have the right to decide where they want to give birth. Women have been giving birth in their homes for centuries now and by not continuing to allow home births from occurring should the expected parents decide that is what for them is an injustice to their rights of free choice.

Stephanie Tolentino

1. To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,
2. Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
3. RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth
4. Oppose
5. Four main points:
 - A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.
 - B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislatures right to decide how and where someone can birth.
 - C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.
 - D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: edwardclark@taongaglass.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 10:51:11 AM

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Clark	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: SB25691 SD1 is invalid, and am submitting this for that as well.

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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Testimony

Hearing date: 2-10-2014

RE: SB2569 & SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home birth

Room 229

To the Honorable Chair and Committee Members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,

The proposed bills do not make the birthing process safer for mothers or babies. There is a plethora of information demonstrating home births and natural births are safe and often safer than hospital births. Many women and families feel more comfortable in a home setting which translates into less stress, faster and easier birthing process, and less stress on the newborn. It is important to be educated on the many benefits of home births in comparison to the risks of hospital births.

The birthing process has tremendous influence on the bonding relationship between mother and child. Scientific studies clearly show the importance of touch and skin to skin contact immediately following birth. Many hospitals remove the newborn to weigh, measure and examine the baby. Newborns routinely receive sugar water and pacifiers to stop crying. This has an adverse effect on breastfeeding. Studies clearly show the many positive benefits of home births.

The proposed bills limit families rights to decide what kind of birth process families can choose. Limiting options is not the role of government particularly when evidence based research shows home births are options many families desire.

There are many different types of home births. We live in a multicultural society. It makes much more sense to hear from the home birth community, with its many different types of midwifery practices, as to what standardized practices they propose.

I oppose these bills and request an informed dialogue to continue giving the legislators time to hear all information and become educated on the differing practices before restricting peoples rights. We all desire safe and quality birthing practices resulting in healthy babies and mothers. Lets study the facts, include the many different practitioners, and provide a safe and healthy options for our community

I speak from personal experience, having had both hospital and home births. My home birth was by far the easiest, least stressful, and most inclusive for my family. My granddaughters were also born at home. Their mother chose a home birth with attending midwives though she is a RN at a birthing hospital. Although she had insurance coverage for hospital birth, she chose to pay out of pocket for a homebirth as she felt this was the best option for her family. All these children are healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Charlene Casserley

676 Holopuni Rd

Kula, Hawaii 96790

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mino@mauimino.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2569 on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 10:58:29 AM
Attachments: [Opposition Testimony 2569 and 2569SD1.docx](#)

SB2569

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mino mclean	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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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To :Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,
Regarding: Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

I Oppose

A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.

B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislature's right to decide how and where someone can birth.

C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.

D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

I have given birth to two of my children at home, with midwives, on the island of Kauai. I can testify that both of my home births were the most empowering experiences I have ever had in my life. Being in a comfortable space with a caring midwife can immensely help birth to go smoothly and naturally. Giving birth is a private and natural experience (similar to having intimate intercourse) and should not be treated as a medical procedure. No man will EVER understand giving birth. Being in the presence of a skilled midwife who teaches you to trust your body and your mind, gives a mother unconditional patience and loving energy to her life and to her baby, which in return creates peace. Peace begins in the womb. Being raised by a peaceful, patient mother creates a peaceful, patient child. Homebirth equals peace. Please consider my testimony and understand that giving birth is natural and not medical, after all... Where was Jesus born? That's right, a stable.

Mahalo for your time,

Emily

TESTIMONY FROM: Eomailani Kukahiko

ON: S.B. 2569 and S. B. 2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth

BEFORE THE: Committee on Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 10, 2014

TIME: 1:30

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

POSITION: OPPOSE

Aloha my name is Eōmailani Kukahiko and I am a teacher educator for both English language and Hawaiian Language Immersion teachers at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and I oppose any legislation that will inhibit my right as a Native Hawaiian woman to practice my culture by restricting the birth of my choice.

I am a strong advocate for home birth as I believe that it provides the safe and culturally responsive environment for Hawaiian cultural practices which include but are not limited to, pain management, ‘iewe (placenta) care, and the kind of “treatments” that we would like for our newborn children. I see no indication on the proposed board requiring anyone with Hawaiian cultural knowledge of traditional birthing practice and do not feel that my Hawaiian worldview will be honored in this process.

I need to make it clear that I have had experience birth in both hospital and home settings and I choose to advocate for home birth. I too am concerned for the safety and quality of care that expectant mothers get but that is not what this bill will provide. It restricts my right as a mother to choose the care and the people that I need around to me to exercise this most basic maternal and cultural right of birth.

In November of 2008, my husband and I were driving to a hospital in town from Kaneohe shortly after I went into labor. Unfortunately, we didn’t quite make it to the hospital, and my son Kaipō was born in the parking lot, received by his father. Fortunately we had a blanket and my husband was able to waive down some staff to help us. This is where the story gets upsetting. Although my son was safe he was taken to the NICU and I was unable to see him for many hours, and then only when I was able to travel there during visiting hours. When I was able to visit, I saw 20-30 heel pricks, and was told after the fact that he was given antibiotics that could cause deafness. I was then discharged from the hospital, while my son was kept captive in the NICU, for observation, even though there was no indication of any kind of medical problems. My husband and I were sleeping in the car in that same parking lot to remain close to our son. This separation caused great stress on our family and we finally demanded to take our son home.

When we learned that we were having another baby in 2011, my husband and I sought more cultural path for the birth of our child, believing that by invoking spiritual and practical approaches, we could ensure a safe delivery for our youngest child. With the earlier experience of my husband having delivered our son, I was confident that he would be able to do it again, alone, instead this time at home. He encouraged me however to seek a professional with home birth experience. I am so grateful to Dr. Lori Kimata facilitated a safe home birth with minimal medical intervention. His safe arrival into this world through a home-birth, subsequent planting of his ‘iewe in his ancestral home reassure me that he too will be firmly planted in the ways of his kūpuna, and through faith in our Hawaiian traditions and knowledge we will always have the strength to survive and thrive.

From: [lady loveMore](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: SB2569 Testimony
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 11:58:28 AM

To:

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair Committee Members of Health

The Honorable Roz Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members, Senate Committee on Health

Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: February 10, 2014, 1:30 pm, Room 229

Re: SB 2569 and SB 2569 SD 1, Relating to Home Birth

{IN OPPOSITION}

Good Afternoon Senators,

Thank you for your time.

SB2569 portends to strive to ensure greater safety in out of hospital births. And yet, the means through which this objective is to be fulfilled unfortunately precludes its success. By infringing on a family's right to choose its own birth practitioner, you impose upon a fundamental freedom, you inject medical interest into a private family matter, and, most salient to your objective, you interrupt a bond of trust and confidence that greatly influences the physiological process of birth. This is a point of fact which may not initially resonate within the framework through which you view birth. Nonetheless it is an axiom well appreciated within the midwifery model of care. It is the reason why women will continue to choose this paradigm, despite efforts to malign it. It is the reason women will continue to feel compelled to provide care to one another, whether from light or shadow.

Women will have what they need. Please do not relegate women to secrecy.

History has many examples to offer relevant to the restriction of Women's Health choices; restricting access to care and services has been shown to increase risk, morbidity and mortality.

Rather than carelessly backsliding into a prohibitive and oppressive position against women, I, your female citizen and constituent, challenge you to instead seek an intelligent, enlightened approach toward honoring the needs of the parturient population. One that encourages cohesive, transparent, respectful care, one that trusts women to choose for themselves.

Thank You,

Piper Lovemore

--

p.s. loveMore

' we have a secret in our culture, and its not that birth can be painful, its that women are strong'

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1. To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor,
2. Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229
3. RE: SB2569 and SB2569 SD1 Relating to Home Birth
4. Oppose
5. Four main points:
 - A) Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe? (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, If legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.
 - B) We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislatures right to decide how and where someone can birth.
 - C) This bill is divisive because some forms of midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.
 - D) Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

To: Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor

Hearing date 2-10-14 1:30pm rm 229

RE: **SB2569 and SB2569 SD1** Relating to Home Birth

Home birth is safe, as safe if not safer than hospital births. **If safety is what the legislators are concerned about, let's study all birth options, home and hospital to discern what is safe?** (Rising c-sect rate, inductions, medications...safe?) Let's dialogue, if legislators are truly interested in learning about home birth as Green's press release indicates, then take this next year to learn about the differences between the midwifery model vs the medical model of birthing. Become educated.

We (the public, the home birth practitioners and community, and the legislators) are all interested in safety and quality care. Unfortunately, this is not what this bill will provide. Instead it restricts the rights of families to deliver their children in the settings they feel true to them and with the attendants they choose. It is not the legislatures right to decide how and where someone can birth.

This bill is divisive because some forms of **midwifery/home birth practices would be excluded and criminalized in this bill**. The home birth community is unifying, and wants to include all practitioners who can then provide support for all the different types of birth experiences the community is asking for.

Let the home birth community form their own advisory counsel with all birth practitioners represented - ND, CPM, CNM, Direct Entry, Traditional midwives, OB, Family Practitioners etc to gather data, dialogue and form appropriate standards acceptable to all birth practitioners and the community, and bring this back to the legislature next session.

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members, Senate Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: MAYLING CHUNG

Date: February 10th, 2014

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health/Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection/Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; Mon. February 10th 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Rm 229

Re: SB 2569 and SB2569 SD1, Relating to Home Birth – In Opposition

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition of SB 2569 and SB 2569 SD1, both of which attempt to regulate midwifery in the State of Hawaii.

Here are some reasons why I OPPOSE SB2569 and SB2569 SD1:

- It is the right of every birthing mother to choose where, with whom, and how she feels best to birth her child, in accordance with self-determination and privacy and in the context of cultural, traditional, spiritual or personal beliefs. This bill currently proposes to violate a woman's bodily autonomy and a woman's right to choose. Both bills take away choices for women when it comes to their reproductive health.
- SB2569 threatens women's health and negatively limits midwifery and home birth in the state of Hawaii by creating a context in which mothers who choose to home birth may potentially find illegal care providers, which poses greater risk to herself and her baby. The bill also infringes on patients' rights and violates their right to medical privacy.
- Home birth with a trained midwife is not an issue of safety as presented by this bill, which uses incomplete data to support its claim. It refers to a two to three fold increase in neonatal mortality cited from a study that has been refuted. Here are studies addressing that particular study, along with others that support home birth with a trained midwife to be just as safe as a hospital birth. (see sources 1,2,3,4,5 below)
- These bills do NOT take into account cultural practices in home birth. It must be viewed in the context of a cultural, traditional, spiritual belief and practice, which is protected by law.

- The Home Birth Safety Board is also based on a medical model, and it does not reflect the culture and practice of home birth. It doesn't reflect the participants of home birth practice. The Home Birth Safety Board should be autonomous from the Hawaii Medical Board and comprised primarily of the home birth providers with some OB/MD representation but certainly not the majority or even half. There should be a Home Birth Providers Board overseen directly by the DCCA .

Suggestions: Write a new bill next legislative session that addresses the concerns stated above and include home birth providers and key stakeholders in the birthing community when drafting new legislation. Amending SB2569 OR SB2569 SD1 is NOT an option. Both bills are too flawed to correct given the time constraints of the legislature. A complete overhaul of these bills must ensue. There are many suggestions for a new bill, please let's work together to create it.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
MAYLING CHUNG

Sources: 1. "Home Birth versus Hospital Birth: Questioning the Quality of the Evidence on Safety" article published in Birth (Volume 30, Issue 1, pages 57-63, March 2003) "In contrast, the Midwives Association of Washington State press release stated that 'Childbearing women and health policy makers should be made aware that the study contains numerous flaws and limitations...this study alone should not be used to make decisions that could restrict women's choice of birth place or access to birth attendants with expertise in home birth'" (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../j.1523-536X.../abstract>) 2. Planned Home vs Hospital Birth: A Meta-Analysis Gone Wrong, Medscape Ob/Gyn & Women's Health 4/1/2011 (<http://cfpcwp.com/.../Medscape-Wax-Critique-Michal...>) 3. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse - Vital Statistics Hawaii (<http://www.hhdw.org/cms/index.php?page=vital-statistics>) 4. BMJ 2005;330;1416 Outcomes of planned home birth with certified professional midwives; large prospective study in North America 5. BJOG, 2009 Aug; 116(9):1177-84 Perinatal mortality and morbidity in a nationwide cohort of 529,688 low risk planned home and hospital births 6. The Myth of a Safer Hospital Birth for Low Risk Pregnancies (<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/.../myth-safer-hospital-birth...>) "Study validity questioned" in The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (volume 204, Issue 4, page e14, April 2011) ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(10\)01107-5/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(10)01107-5/fulltext)) 7. Home birth metaanalysis: does it meet AJOG's reporting requirements? ([http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00074-3/fulltext](http://ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00074-3/fulltext)) 8. International data demonstrate home birth safety. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21458614>) 9. "Home birth triples the neonatal death rate": public communication of bad science? ([http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)00075-5/abstract](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)00075-5/abstract)) 10. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23769011> 11. <http://www.bmj.com/content/330/7505/1416> 12. Outcomes of Care for 16,924

Planned Home Births in the United States: The Midwives Alliance of North America
Statistics Project, 2004 to 2009

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jmwh.12172/pdf>

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Roz Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Water & Land

The Honorable Roz Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members, Senate Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Daniela Kittinger

Date: February 10th, 2014

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health/Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection/Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; Mon. February 10th 2014 at 1:30 p.m.
in Rm 229

Re: **SB 2569 and SB2569 SD1, Relating to Home Birth - In Opposition**

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **opposition of SB 2569 and SB 2569 SD1**, both of which attempt to regulate midwifery in the State of Hawaii.

I am a mother of two. Although I chose to have both of my children in hospitals, I believe that the option to choose a homebirth is critical to the health and well-being of mothers and babies. I know many women who have chosen a homebirth with qualified midwives in the state of Hawai'i, and it was a transformative experience for them.

If you have a healthy pregnancy, there is NO MEDICAL REASON to give birth in a hospital. It increases risk of infection and can lead to increased interventions and possible complications. These interventions and complications have been shown to alter the natural balance of hormones so critical for proper bonding, milk production, and avoidance of post-partum depression. I can personally attest to this, having had one very highly medicated birth and one naturally. I noticed a much quicker recovery and bonding with my child after the unmedicated birth.

I can understand the desire to make sure that homebirths are regulated and safe, but this bill does not accomplish that aim. It will only serve to make homebirth inaccessible to all but the most wealthy and educated of women (even more so than it is now), driving away those with low incomes and less education. It will drive midwives out of business. It will increase the likelihood of unsafe homebirth conditions due to lack of legitimization. It fails

to take into account culture, history, and non-traditional forms of knowledge. And worst of all, will take away women's choices.

I urge you to scrap both SB2569 AND SB2569 SD1 and write a new bill next legislative session WITH INPUT from mothers and the birth community (NOT JUST OBSTETRITIANS).

Thank you for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Daniela Kittinger

From: [Jared Miller](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB2569 and SB2569 SD1
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 2:32:54 PM

I am writing in opposition to SB2569 and SB2569 SD1. My wife gave birth to our daughter at home under the care of a trained, licensed midwife. The control and privacy we had over the biggest event of our lives is something I will always cherish.

Having reviewed the bills in their entirety, I am concerned that this is simply an attempt by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) to keep midwives from being able to carry on their practices here in Hawaii. Most telling is that while SB2569 mentions a study citing a 300% increase in infant mortality with home births, the study itself is not named. Nor does the Hawaii State Legislature webpage include a copy of the study, precluding voters' ability to read the study for themselves and draw their own conclusions.

Essentially what SB2569 and its sponsors are saying that is that voters must have blind faith that the Legislature is making the right call in this situation without bothering to provide the information behind the decision. What is even more suspect is that the bill is being pushed by ACOG who is certainly no friend to midwives or the women and families they serve.

While home birth is certainly not always the right call for every woman, every woman should have the freedom to decide for herself what type of birthing experience she wants for herself and her baby. This bill would take away that freedom and extend the nanny state into an intensely personal decision.

I humbly ask that the Legislature see these bills for what they are, an attack on the rights of women. Please vote no on SB2569 and SB2569 SD1.

Sincerely,

Jared Miller