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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO JURY DUTY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that enabling parents to  
2 care for their newborn child has significant immediate and long-  
3 term benefits for the child and the child's parents. Enabling  
4 mothers to care for their newborn children can reduce infant  
5 mortality and increase the rate and duration of breastfeeding.  
6 The American Academy of Pediatrics supports evidence that  
7 breastfeeding protects against a variety of diseases and  
8 conditions in infants, including bacteremia, diarrhea,  
9 respiratory and urinary tract infections, type 1 and type 2  
10 diabetes, lymphoma, leukemia, and childhood obesity. There are  
11 also maternal health benefits to breastfeeding, such as  
12 decreased postpartum bleeding and more rapid uterine involution,  
13 decreased menstrual blood loss, and decreased risk of breast and  
14 ovarian cancers. The societal benefits of breastfeeding include  
15 lower health insurance costs and higher worker productivity.

16           The legislature further finds that enabling fathers to look  
17 after their newborn children has positive effects. Studies have



1 shown that fathers who take paternity leave are more likely to  
2 take an active role in childcare tasks, such as feeding,  
3 dressing, bathing, and playing with their children.  
4 Furthermore, fathers are able to establish a bond earlier with  
5 their child.

6 The legislature finds that jury duty may create a hardship  
7 for mothers who breastfeed their children, as mother-child  
8 separation creates a serious challenge to continued  
9 breastfeeding, and for fathers who may be caring for a newborn  
10 child. An exemption from jury duty for parents of a newborn  
11 child can positively impact the relationship between parent and  
12 child.

13 The purpose of this Act is to allow parents to care for  
14 their newborn children by exempting them from jury service while  
15 the child is six months old or younger.

16 SECTION 2. Section 612-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "**§612-6 Exempt when.** A person may claim exemption from  
19 service as a juror if the person is:



- 1           (1) An elected official while the legislature is in  
2                    session, or a judge of the United States, State, or  
3                    county;
- 4           (2) An actively practicing physician or dentist;
- 5           (3) A member of the armed forces or militia when on active  
6                    service and deployed out-of-state;
- 7           (4) An active member of a police or fire department;
- 8           (5) A person who has served as a juror, either in a court  
9                    of this State or the United States District Court for  
10                   the District of Hawaii, within one year preceding the  
11                   time of filling out the juror qualification form;
- 12           (6) An active member of an emergency medical services  
13                   agency;
- 14           (7) A person living more than seventy miles from the court  
15                   for which jury service is required; [~~or~~]
- 16           (8) A person eighty years of age or older[~~er~~]; or
- 17           (9) A parent for the active care and custody of the  
18                   parent's natural born or adopted child while the child  
19                   is six months old or younger.

20           For purposes of this section, "emergency medical services  
21           agency" means any government agency, private agency, or company



1 that provides ambulance services, emergency medical services, or  
2 disaster medical services."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



**Report Title:**

Breastfeeding; Jury Duty; Exemption

**Description:**

Exempts from jury duty parents for the active care and custody of natural born or adopted children while the children are six months old and younger. (SB2315 HD1 PROPOSED)

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