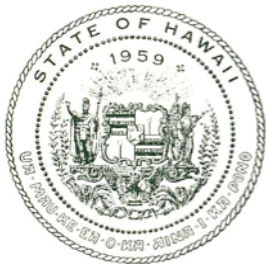


SB2315

Measure Title: RELATING TO JURY DUTY.
Report Title: Breastfeeding; Jury Duty; Exemption
Description: Exempts mothers who breastfeed or express breast milk from jury duty; provided that this exemption shall end when a mother is no longer breastfeeding or expressing breast milk.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: CPH, JDL
Introducer(s): SHIMABUKURO, GREEN, Baker, Espero, Inouye, Kidani, Kim, Tokuda

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
MARILYN LEE
JUDY KERN
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

February 1, 2016

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection and Health

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

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 2315, Relating to Jury Duty

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2315, which would allow breastfeeding mothers the opportunity and choice to be exempted from jury duty for one year. For many mothers, breastfeeding can be difficult to begin and hard to maintain. For working mothers, the difficulty is even more pronounced. The ability to find time and a location to use a breastpump is not easy during the work day. Multiple barriers exist for women who wish to continue breastfeeding a child. Studies reveal that supportive policies can help women continue breastfeeding. This is one such policy that would support breastfeeding mothers.

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

Women should not have to choose between continued breastfeeding and a civic obligation to report to jury duty. Allowing an exemption from jury duty makes sense for women and their children. Twelve states in the United States in addition to Puerto Rico and American Samoa have all passed laws exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty. We urge this Committee to pass SB 2315 as a sound public health policy for women and children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



To Senator Roz Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

From Laura Morihara, RD, IBCLC
Vice President, Breastfeeding Hawaii
State Breastfeeding Coalition

RE: SB 2315 **Relating to Jury Duty**

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 8:30am

On behalf of Breastfeeding Hawaii, I would like to express my support of **SB 2315 Jury Duty** for Breastfeeding Women, exempting them from jury duty during the time they are breastfeeding or expressing milk for their child.

Breastfeeding Hawaii is a non-profit 501c3 organization. We represent Hawaii locally and at the National US Breastfeeding Committee in Washington, D.C. Our mission is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the State of Hawaii. We do this through the organization of community efforts, outreach, policy change, education, legislation and advocacy.

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

higher worker productivity.

Mother-child separation presents a serious challenge to continuing breastfeeding. It costs nothing to exempt a breastfeeding woman from jury duty, and can make a big difference in further preserving the breastfeeding relationship. A woman should never have to worry about how she is going to feed her baby or pump her milk, while required to sit in a courtroom jury box or be sequestered in jury deliberations. Presently there are no accommodations available in the Court House for breastfeeding women who are on juries.

In the United States, 17 states-California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have laws that exempt breastfeeding women from jury duty.

Breastfeeding Hawaii believes in supporting breastfeeding women to continue to breastfeed and/or provide breastmilk for their infant. We realize a mother may choose to perform her civic responsibly but if she cannot due the need to be with her infant to breastfeed or provide milk for the baby, she needs to be provided this exemption. Also, we suggest that documentation of a woman breastfeeding could easily be verified from the Pediatrician or other health care provider caring for the infant.

Accordingly, we encourage this Committee to favorably pass this bill, exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty.

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

Laura Morihara, RD, IBCLC
Vice-President, Breastfeeding Hawaii
State Breastfeeding Coalition



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, 8:30 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Re: Testimony in support of S.B. 2315

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.B. 2315, which seeks to exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty.

PPVNH is dedicated to ensuring through advocacy that Hawaii’s people have the ability to take care of their reproductive health care needs and we support S.B. 2315 because it will eliminate a barrier that women face when they seek to breastfeed their children.

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director and Public Affairs Manager

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

² *Id.*

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: susan.wurtzburg@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2315 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM*
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 5:48:05 PM

SB2315

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: mrocca@hscadv.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2315 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 1:19:09 PM

SB2315

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Rocca	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2315 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:00:00 PM

SB2315

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov