


February 2, 2016

**LATE**

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

From: Debrah Trankel, MSN, RNC, CLC, IBCLC  
Clinical Nurse III, Lactation Consultant @ The Queen's Medical  
~~Center~~ 

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 while breastfeeding their baby. For many mothers, breastfeeding can be difficult to begin and hard to maintain. For working mothers, it is even more difficult to maintain the breast milk supply. The ability to find time and a location to use a breastpump is not easy during the work day. However, all research shows a significant link between breastfeeding and better public health. We should support and advocate for breastfeeding mothers in whatever way we can, through policies, practices and legislation.

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

Women should not have to choose between continued breastfeeding and a civic obligation to report to jury duty. Allowing an exemption from jury duty, from the time a woman begins breastfeeding her child, makes sense for women and their children. Twelve states in the United States in addition to Puerto Rico have all passed laws exempting breastfeeding women from jury duty. Currently, there are no posted /dedicated spaces at the court houses nor here at the Capitol, for a mother to either pump and express milk or breastfeed her baby. "A clean private place that is not a bathroom" is already a law, and not being met. 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.

Sincerely, Debrah Trankel  
MSN, RNC, CLC, IBCLC  
Clinical Nurse III, Lactation Consultant @ QMC



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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2315 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM\*  
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**SB2315**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Kimura	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies	Support	Yes

Comments:

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