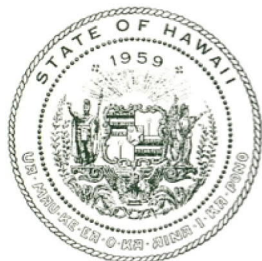


HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU  
JUDY KERN  
MARILYN LEE  
CARMILLE LIM  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director  
CATHY 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

March 19, 2015

**Testimony in Support, SB 304, SD2, Relating to Health**

**To:** Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

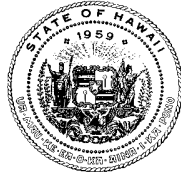
**From:** Cathy Betts, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re:** Testimony in Support, SB 304, SD2, Relating to Health

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to express my support for SB 304, SD2, which would establish a maternal mortality review panel to review maternal deaths in Hawaii.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the World Health Organization, and the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, among many other organizations, strongly recommend that all states have a formal review process of maternal deaths to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity. Hawaii does not review maternal deaths.

Maternal mortality reviews highlight possible areas for system improvements and changes that can lead to better pregnancy care for all women and have been proven to work in other states and countries. Hawaii's maternal death rate is comparable to the overall rate found throughout the United States. Unfortunately, the United States is the only developed country with increasing maternal deaths. Establishing a maternal mortality review panel will undoubtedly save lives. The panel would require a very small appropriation (under \$15,000). The Commission supports this measure and respectfully requests that you pass this bill. Thank you for hearing this important measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 304, S.D. 2  
Relating to Health**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELLATI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 20, 2015

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The measure appropriates an unspecified amount of funding.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the intent of S.B. 304, S.D. 2 but defers to  
3 the Governor's Executive Budget request and for the Department of Health's appropriations and  
4 personnel priorities.

5 The bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 324 to establish a Maternal Mortality  
6 Review Panel to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths in Hawaii  
7 to identify factors associated with the deaths and make recommendations for system changes to  
8 improve the delivery of health care and reduce maternal mortality in Hawaii. This panel would  
9 be responsible for submission of an annual report to the legislature on their activities, identifiable  
10 trends in maternal deaths, including recommendations for systems changes, and any proposed  
11 legislation to reduce the number of preventable maternal deaths. The S.D.2 adds the  
12 incorporation of "maternal morbidity" to the name of the review panel and to its responsibilities.  
13 The Department believes that this addition would increase the work load beyond the scope of the  
14 original intent of this measure. The Department concurs with Hawaii ACOG's suggested  
15 amendments to remove the incorporation of "morbidity" from the review panels name and  
16 references to "maternal mortality," "maternal mortality events," and "maternal mortality review  
17 information," and to not remove/leave in place: ... "the maternal and perinatal mortality study  
18 committee of the Hawaii Medical Association, any in-hospital staff committee or" ... and "The  
19 maternal and perinatal study committee of the Hawaii Medical Association, the department of  
20 health, or any in-hospital staff committee" ...

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

creagan1 - Dannah

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:36 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: jbsestak@prodigy.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB304 on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM

**SB304**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Betty Sestak	AAUW Windward	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Support with Amendments

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

creagan1 - Dannah

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:02 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB304 on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM\*

**SB304**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wailua Brandman	Hawaii Assoc. of Professional Nurses	Support	No

Comments:

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## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

TO:  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2015  
TIME: 10:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Dr. Chris Flanders, Executive Director  
Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

**Re: SB304SD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the Maternal  
Mortality Review Panel**

**Position: Strongly Support with Amendments – Support ACOG and DOH  
Amendments**

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure. ACOG and DOH met and agreed to the attached amendments. HMA volunteered to be the contractor to administer the Maternal Mortality review panel, as such, much of the existing statute should not be removed. HMA used to conduct the Maternal Mortality review before we ran out of funds. Under the proposed amendments, which were agreed to by DOH, DOH would use the \$10,000 to contract with HMA to conduct maternal death reviews.

Hawaii is one of only 13 states without a multi-disciplinary professional panel to review pregnancy-related deaths. Maternal mortality review panels are essential to improving pregnancy care for all patients and it is thought that up to half of all maternal deaths may be preventable. **We know that review panels work:** unlike overall United States data with rising maternal death rates, the United Kingdom and the state of California have decreased their maternal mortality by identifying missed opportunities and remediable factors in cases of maternal death. Findings from review panels guide the creation of treatment protocols, education campaigns and standardization of pregnancy care. SB304 creates this much needed review panel, made up of **volunteer** health providers and other members at very **minimal cost** to the State for a part-time administrative assistant. We are collaborating with the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) on this bill.

Despite advances in medical care, the U.S. maternal mortality continues to rise and we are the

### *Officers*

*President - Robert Sloan, MD, President-Elect – Scott McCaffrey, MD  
Immediate Past President – Walton Shim, MD, Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD  
Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO*

only developed nation with an increasing maternal mortality. The number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. has increased from 8.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1997 to a high of 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 (CDC, 2015). In the 1990s, U.S. officials had hoped to decrease this rate from 8.4 (1997) to 3.3 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2010 (Healthy People 2010), however the actual rate was five times that number. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates for 2013, reveal that 62 countries had lower maternal mortality ratios than the U.S. (WHO, Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2013). According to Hawaii Department of Health data, there were 102 maternal deaths from 2001 through 2011, an average of 9 deaths per year.

For each maternal death, there are many more “near misses”. Reviewing maternal deaths highlights areas for improvement in pregnancy care for all women.

The estimated cost of instituting the Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel is only \$10,000 annually for a part time administrative assistant/copying costs. The remainder of the professional panel committee members are volunteers and uncompensated. This is a very minimal cost for such a large benefit to all of Hawaii’s pregnant women.

Hawaii ACOG strongly supports the establishment of a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to benefit all of Hawaii’s women, with the amendments that follow.

We respectfully ask that the following changes be made to SB304SD2:

Page 1, Line 4:

**Remove:** ...."Morbidity and" ....

Page 2, Line 13:

**Remove:**...."morbidity and" ....

Page 2, Line 14:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and" ....

Page 3, Line 8:

**Remove:**...."morbidity and" ....

Page 3, Line 19:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and" ....

Page 4, Line 5:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and" ....

Page 4, Line 7:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and" ....

Page 6, Line 7:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and" ....

Page 6, Line 16:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Page 6, Line 19:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Page 7, Line 9:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Page 8, Lines 7-8:

**Remove:** ...."providers of medical care and"...

Page 8, Line 9:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Add: "l" to "maternal"

Page 8, Line 13:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Page 8, Line 16:

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Page 11, Line 21:

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Page 12, Line 6:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Page 12, Lines 16-18:

**Do NOT remove/Leave in place:**..."the maternal and perinatal mortality study committee of the Hawaii Medical Association, any hospital staff committee or"...

Page 13, Lines 10-12:

**Do NOT remove/Leave in place:** ..."The maternal and perinatal study committee of the Hawaii Medical Association, the department of health, or any hospital staff committee".... **Add** "and"...

Page 13, Line 19:

**Do NOT remove/Leave in place:**..."under any circumstances"...

Page 14, Line 4:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your support of Hawaii Women's Health.





Friday, March 20, 2015  
10:30 AM  
Conference Room 329

healthy  
mothers  
healthy  
babies

COALITION  
OF HAWAII

TO: House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

FROM: Lisa Kimura, Executive Director, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii

RE: SB304SD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the Maternal Mortality Review Panel

POSITION: Strongly Support with Amendments proposed by Hawaii ACOG Testimony

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Committee Members:

As the leader of a maternal health organization who cares and advocates for pregnant women and new mothers, **I strongly support SB304 with amendments proposed by Hawaii ACOG testimony**, establishing a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to perform comprehensive reviews of Hawaii maternal deaths.

Whereas the CDC, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, World Health Organization, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, and many other organizations strongly recommend that all states have a formal review process of maternal deaths to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity, Hawaii does not review maternal deaths.

We need to be able to evaluate and work to improve our rates of maternal deaths. States and countries with an established maternal mortality review have been able to make a sizable impact on standards of care and prevention efforts.

Maternal mortality reviews highlight possible areas for system improvements and changes that can lead to better pregnancy care for all women and have been proven to work in other states and countries. Hawaii's maternal death rate is comparable to the overall US rate. Unfortunately, the United States is the only developed country with increasing maternal deaths.

A woman should not have to fear for her life in the event of childbirth. Taking steps to evaluate the causes and implement steps to prevent the incidence of maternal death is vital to our health system of care. Please support Hawaii's women and keiki with this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important women's health issue.

310 Paoakalani Ave., Suite 202A, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815  
(808) 737-5805 [lisak@hmhb-hawaii.org](mailto:lisak@hmhb-hawaii.org) [www.hmhb-hawaii.org](http://www.hmhb-hawaii.org)

**American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
District VIII, Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section**

Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair  
94-235 Hanawai Circle, #1B  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797



March 20, 2015 – Friday  
10:30 AM  
Conference Room 329

TO: House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

FROM: Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair  
Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Vice Chair  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section

**Re: SB304SD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the Maternal  
Mortality Review Panel**

**Position: Strongly Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and Committee Members:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section (Hawaii ACOG) strongly supports the establishment of a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths towards improving pregnancy care in our state. This measure establishes the Hawaii maternal mortality review panel to conduct a comprehensive review of maternal deaths that have occurred in the State. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, World Health Organization and many other organizations all strongly recommend that each state have a maternal mortality review panel.

Hawaii is one of only 13 states without a multi-disciplinary professional panel to review pregnancy-related deaths. Maternal mortality review panels are essential to improve pregnancy care for all patients, and it is thought that up to half of all maternal deaths may be preventable. **We know that review panels work: unlike overall United States data with rising maternal death rates, the United Kingdom and the state of California have decreased their maternal mortality** by identifying missed opportunities and remediable factors in cases of maternal death. Findings from review panels guide the

creation of treatment protocols, education campaigns and standardization of pregnancy care. SB304 creates this much needed review panel, made up of **volunteer health providers** and other members at very **minimal cost** to the State for a part-time administrative assistant. **We are collaborating with the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) on this bill.**

Despite advances in medical care, the U.S. maternal mortality continues to rise and we are the only developed nation with an increasing maternal mortality. The number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. has increased from 8.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1997 to a high of 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 (CDC, 2015). In the 1990s, U.S. officials had hoped to decrease this rate from 8.4 (1997) to 3.3 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2010 (Healthy People 2010), however the actual rate was five times that number. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates for 2013, reveal that 62 countries had lower maternal mortality ratios than the U.S. (WHO, Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2013). **According to Hawaii Department of Health data, there were 102 maternal deaths from 2001 through 2011, an average of 9 deaths per year.**

For each maternal death, there are many more “near misses”. Reviewing maternal deaths highlights areas for improvement in pregnancy care for all women.

**The estimated cost of instituting the Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel is only \$10,000 annually for a part time administrative assistant/copying costs. The remainder of the professional panel committee members are volunteers and uncompensated. This is a very minimal cost for such a large benefit to all of Hawaii’s pregnant women. We do not believe that it will cost more than \$10,000 for a DOH administrative assistant to review an average of 9 maternal deaths per year.**

**Hawaii ACOG strongly supports the establishment of a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to benefit all of Hawaii’s women, with the amendments that follow.**

We respectfully ask that the following changes be made to SB304SD2:

Page 1, Line 4:

**Remove:** ...."Morbidity and"....

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Page 12, Lines 16-18:

**Do NOT remove/Leave in place:**..."the maternal and perinatal mortality study committee of the Hawaii Medical Association, any hospital staff committee or"...

Page 13, Lines 10-12:

**Do NOT remove/Leave in place:** ..."The maternal and perinatal study committee of the Hawaii Medical Association, the department of health, or any hospital staff committee"....**Add** "and"...

Page 14, Line 4:

**Remove:** ...."morbidity and"....

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your support of Hawaii Women's Health.



March 20, 2015

TESTIMONY: written only

To: Chairperson Au Bellati, Vice-Chair Creagan and Members of the House Health Committee

From: The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA)

Subject: SB304, SD2: RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing a Hawaii Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Panel

Aloha Chair Belatti, Representative Creagan and Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Nancy Partika, and I am President of the Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA). HPHA is pleased to be testifying today in support on the issue of establishing a Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review panel for Hawaii. The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) represents a membership of over 600 practitioners, professionals, and students in the field of public health statewide, many of whom work in maternal and child health. HPHA's mission is to promote public health in Hawaii through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy, with health equity in Hawaii and the Pacific and a strong public health workforce able to effectively respond to health challenges.

HPHA supports SB304,SD2 with the amendments proposed by Hawaii ACOG testimony, to establish a Hawaii Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Review Panel that can perform comprehensive clinical reviews of Hawaii maternal deaths. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, and other health organizations strongly recommend that all states have a formal review process of maternal deaths in order to analyze why maternal deaths occur and what might be done to prevent future maternal deaths. While the Hawaii Department of Health reports that there were 102 maternal deaths from 2001 through 2011, Hawaii currently has no statewide process in place to review maternal deaths.

Maternal morbidity and mortality reviews typically highlight possible areas for system improvements and changes that can lead to better pregnancy care for all women and have been proven to work in other states and countries. Hawaii's maternal death rate is comparable to the overall US rate. Unfortunately, the United States is the only developed country with increasing maternal deaths. We need to work to further reduce maternal deaths in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important women's health issue.

Friday- March 20, 2015  
10:30AM  
Conference Room 329

To: House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Autumn Broady, MD, MPH

**Re: SB8304SD2—RELATING TO MATERNAL HEALTH: ESTABLISHES  
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW PANEL**

**Position: Strongly support**

I am writing in support of S.B. 304, which creates a Hawaii State Maternal Mortality Review Panel. Deaths from pregnancy-related causes are increasing in the United States, with significant effects on women, their families and society.

Hawaii is one of only 13 states without a multi-disciplinary professional panel to review pregnancy-related deaths. Maternal mortality review panels are essential to improve pregnancy care for all patients, as up to **50% of maternal mortality is preventable**. **We know that review panels work**: unlike the United States with rising maternal death rates, the United Kingdom and the state of California have decreased their maternal mortality by identifying **missed opportunities** and **remediable factors** in cases of maternal death. Findings from review panels guide the creation of treatment protocols, education campaigns and standardization of pregnancy care. S.B. 304 creates this much needed review panel, made up of **volunteer** members at very **minimal cost** to the State.

S.B. 304 has the support of many health care organizations, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maternal and Child Health associations, Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, as well as **our own Hawaii Department of Health**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important women's health issue. Your support is essential to help improve outcomes for all of Hawaii's mothers and their babies.

creagan1 - Dannah

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:42 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: docnate@hotmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB304 on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM

**SB304**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Fujita M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the formation of this important educational committee. It can only help doctors understand and correct system wide problems that can contribute to maternal morbidity and mortality.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:08 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: scharris@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB304 on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM

**SB304**

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: TO: House Committee on Health Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair FROM: Sara Harris, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists RE: SB304SD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the Maternal Mortality Review Panel POSITION: Strongly Support with Amendments proposed by Hawaii ACOG Testimony Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Committee Members: As an obstetrician who cares for pregnant women, I strongly support SB304 with amendments proposed by Hawaii ACOG testimony, establishing a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to perform comprehensive reviews of Hawaii maternal deaths. The CDC, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, World Health Organization, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, and many other organizations strongly recommend that all states have a formal review process of maternal deaths to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity. Hawaii does not review maternal deaths. Maternal mortality reviews highlight possible areas for system improvements and changes that can lead to better pregnancy care for all women and have been proven to work in other states and countries. Hawaii's maternal death rate is comparable to the overall US rate. Unfortunately, the United States is the only developed country with increasing maternal deaths. Please support Hawaii's women and keiki with this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important Women's Health issue. Sincerely, Sara Harris, MD

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March 20, 2015 - Friday  
10:30 AM  
Conference Room 329

TO: House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

FROM: Ronnie Texeira, MD

RE: **SB304SD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the  
Maternal Mortality Review Panel**

POSITION: **Strongly Support with Amendments proposed by  
Hawaii ACOG Testimony**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Committee Members:

As an obstetrician who cares for pregnant women, I **strongly support SB304 with amendments proposed by Hawaii ACOG testimony**, establishing a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to perform comprehensive reviews of Hawaii maternal deaths. The CDC, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, World Health Organization, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, and many other organizations strongly recommend that all states have a formal review process of maternal deaths to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity. Hawaii does not review maternal deaths.

Maternal mortality reviews highlight possible areas for system improvements and changes that can lead to better pregnancy care for all women and have been proven to work in other states and countries. Hawaii's maternal death rate is comparable to the overall US rate. Unfortunately, the United States is the only developed country with increasing maternal deaths.

Please support Hawaii's women and keiki with this bill.

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

creagan1 - Dannah

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 1:28 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: blissk@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB304 on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM\*

**SB304**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bliss Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Friday- March 20, 2015  
10:30AM  
Conference Room 329

To: House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Dena Towner, MD

**Re: SB8304SD2—RELATING TO MATERNAL HEALTH: ESTABLISHES  
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW PANEL**

**Position: Strongly support**

I am writing in support of S.B. 304, which creates a Hawaii State Maternal Mortality Review Panel. Deaths from pregnancy-related causes are increasing in the United States, with significant effects on women, their families and society.

Hawaii is one of only 13 states without a multi-disciplinary professional panel to review pregnancy-related deaths. Maternal mortality review panels are essential to improve pregnancy care for all patients, as up to **50% of maternal mortality is preventable**. **We know that review panels work**: unlike the United States with rising maternal death rates, the United Kingdom and the state of California have decreased their maternal mortality by identifying **missed opportunities** and **remediable factors** in cases of maternal death. Findings from review panels guide the creation of treatment protocols, education campaigns and standardization of pregnancy care. S.B. 304 creates this much needed review panel, made up of **volunteer** members at very **minimal cost** to the State.

S.B. 304 has the support of many health care organizations, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maternal and Child Health associations, Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, as well as **our own Hawaii Department of Health**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important women's health issue. Your support is essential to help improve outcomes for all of Hawaii's mothers and their babies.