



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**

Prepared for the Senate Committees on GVO/LCA

In Support of SCR170  
Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 225

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women strongly supports SCR170, which would request that DAGS dedicate one private room at the Hawai‘i State Capitol for employees and visitors to breastfeed and express breast milk. The law requires employers to provide completely private space other than a bathroom for breastfeeding employees. The space should include an electrical outlet for electronic breast pump usage and a refrigerator. Action is necessary to bring the state into compliance with established federal and state law. Accordingly, we ask that the Committee pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus  
Executive Director



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS/LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

MARCH 21, 2019, 3:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 170  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO  
DEDICATE ONE PRIVATE ROOM IN THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL BUILDING FOR  
EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS TO BREASTFEED OR EXPRESS MILK.

Chairs Thielen and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Inouye and Ihara, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 170 which requests the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to dedicate one private room in the Hawaii State Capitol Building for employees and visitors to breastfeed or express milk.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of S.C.R. 170 but has the following concerns:

1. Safety and Privacy – This resolution addresses both employees and guests which requires accessibility, security and privacy considerations for the room designated.
2. Location – A private room must be identified and agreed upon.
3. Funding – This resolution does not address funding to construct and maintain the room.

Currently, there are limited resources set aside to maintain the public areas of the Capitol. Depending on the room selected, renovations may cost between \$30,000-\$60,000 to accommodate the needs of the users. If more rooms are deemed necessary, additional costs will be incurred.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



P.O. Box 4270 Kaneohe, HI 96744  
[www.breastfeedinghawaii.org](http://www.breastfeedinghawaii.org)

3/18/2019

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senator Thielen, Chair  
Senator Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and The Arts  
Senator Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Conference Room 225  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Breastfeeding Hawai'i

Time: Thirtieth Legislature Regular Session of 2019  
Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 3:30pm

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR SCR170 RELATING TO DAGS  
DESIGNATING A LACTATION ROOM IN THE CAPITOL**

Dear Chairs Thielen and Taniguchi, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Ihara, Jr. and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SCR170**.

Breastfeeding Hawai'i believes that employees within the Capitol, constituents engaged in our legislative process and visitors will benefit from having a designated location for mothers to nurse and/or express breast milk for their child(ren). In addition to ensuring employers within the Capitol remain in compliance with State and Federal laws at all times, a lactation room demonstrates that we welcome nursing families and their engagement in our Capitol.

We have partnered with public and private community-focused organizations over the years in our work, which has included advocating for breastfeeding in public, breastfeeding/expressing milk in the workplace law, and most recently jury duty exemption for nursing mothers. Within the Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative breastfeeding working group, we collaborated with others to develop a State Breastfeeding Work Plan. A critical element within this State Breastfeeding Work Plan is to build concrete supports for the breastfeeding community with the objectives to increase protection, promotion and support for BF mothers in the



P.O. Box 4270 Kaneohe, HI 96744  
[www.breastfeedinghawaii.org](http://www.breastfeedinghawaii.org)

workforce and across the state by engaging community partners to promote BF-friendly policies and worksites; and by establishing a lactation room at the State Capitol.

Breastfeeding Hawai'i's mission is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding through the education of and collaboration with professionals involved in maternal-child health, and serve as a community breastfeeding advocate in the State of Hawai'i. Our vision is that the State of Hawai'i perceives breastfeeding as the optimal way to nourish and nurture Hawai'i's children. Breastfeeding Hawai'i is the state breastfeeding coalition, Hawai'i affiliate to the United States Breastfeeding Committee, member of the Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative, and a member of the Women's Coalition. Dr. Sylvia Pager was one of Breastfeeding Hawai'i's founding mothers and we would be honored to have the lactation room at the Capitol dedicated to her. She was a passionate advocate for the health and well being of mothers and children - many legislators and mayors knew her, and we believe there is no better person's name to grace the lactation room than hers here at the Capitol. She last testified on February 5, 2015 in support of a bill to establish buffer zones for pesticide use around schools; she followed up with a meeting in Senator Josh Green's office where she suffered a stroke and passed away three days later. Her last efforts here with us were an act of advocacy.

**We request an amendment be made to the resolution in order for Dr. Sylvia Pager's husband to receive a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution:**

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, David Pager, PhD, State Comptroller, and Building Manager of the State Capitol Building.”

We look forward to the Legislature adopting this resolution and being a model for all employers in the state. When we support nursing mothers and promote breast milk as the first food for our keiki, we nourish and nurture our future and invest in the health of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,  
Le'a Minton, MSN, APRN, CNM, IBCLC  
Board President, Breastfeeding Hawai'i

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:34:18 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Walsh-Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:48:54 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jan ferguson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:56:19 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Sims	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:57:03 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Ma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SCR170. Lactation rooms support public health by providing a means to sustain the breastfeeding relationship during times of separation, when milk expression (pumping) is necessary to enable continued milk production and prevent complications (such as mastitis and abscess) for the lactating person, as well as providing a sanitary environment for the baby's milk to be handled and prepared for storage.

Lactation rooms are essential for milk expression when the baby cannot breastfeed directly.

Additionally, while breastfeeding should be welcome wherever babies may go, those who prefer to feed their babies in private should also have a place to do so.

Thank you.



**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:04:19 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 19, 2019

Senator Laura Thielen, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Government Operations

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 170 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO DEDICATE ONE PRIVATE ROOM IN THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL BUILDING FOR EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS TO BREASTFEED OR EXPRESS MILK.**

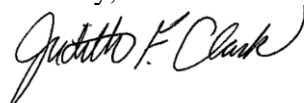
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 170 Requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services to Dedicate One Private Room in the Hawaii State Capitol Building for Employees and Visitors to Breastfeed or Express Milk.

In October, more than 200 youth and about 50 adult volunteers and advisors gathered at the State Capitol for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Children and Youth Summit. Two of our participants brought their babies with them. That is when I realized that the Capitol lacks facilities needed by parents and other caregivers of infants, including a lactation room and baby changing stations.

The Capitol Building is supposed to be a welcoming place that encourages citizen involvement and participation. This includes families with babies.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:10:53 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Younghi Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Thielen, Vice-Chair Inouye, Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of committees,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii writes in strong support of SCR170, which would dedicate one private room at the Hawaii State Capitol building for the employees and visitors to breastfeed and/or express milk.

As anyone who have or had child(ren) who were breastfed know, a private lactation room would benefit not only the employees and visitors but our keiki. Having a private lactation room would also ensure employers within the Capitol remain in compliance with State and Federal laws at all times and demonstrate that Hawaii state legislature welcomes nursing families and their engagement in our Capitol.

AAUW of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes just over 450 active members with over 1700 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony on this important matter.



healthymothers  
healthybabies  
COALITION OF HAWAII

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations & Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and The Arts

Time: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 3:30pm

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR170, RELATING TO DESIGNATING A LACTATION ROOM IN THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

Dear Chairs Thielen and Taniguchi, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Ihara, Jr. and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SCR170. In addition to ensuring mandatory compliance with State and Federal laws, a lactation room demonstrates that we welcome and support nursing mothers, and that our state government honors the public health benefits of breast milk.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) believes that employees, constituents engaged in our legislative process and visitors to the Capitol will benefit from having a designated location for mothers to nurse and/or express breast milk for their child(ren).

Our organization has partnered with public and private community-focused organizations nearly 30 years; advocating for breastfeeding in public, breastfeeding/expressing milk in the workplace law, and most recently jury duty exemption for nursing mothers.

Our advocacy work with the Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative (HMIHC) breastfeeding work group included efforts to develop a State Breastfeeding Plan. A critical element within this Work Plan is to build concrete supports for the breastfeeding community with the objectives to increase protection, promotion and support for mothers in the workforce and across the state. This lactation room would accomplish one of many collective goals.

HMHB also supports the suggestion by Breastfeeding Hawaii to honor Dr. Sylvia Pager by dedicating the lactation room at the Capitol to her. She was a passionate advocate for breastfeeding and the health and well-being of mothers and children and was working on improving the health of families up until her very last moments of life; suffering a fatal stroke while at the Capitol in 2015.

When we support nursing mothers and promote breast milk as the first food for our keiki, we nourish and nurture our future and invest in the health of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Kimura  
Executive Director  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii

Date: March 19, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations

Senator Thielen, Chair

Senator Inouye, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and The Arts

Senator Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Conference Room 225

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Strong Support of SCR170, Relating to DAGS Designating a Lactation Room in the Capitol

Hrg: Thirtieth Legislature Regular Session of 2019 on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SCR170, relating to Department of Accounting and General Services to dedicate a lactation room in the Hawai'i State Capitol. My name is Charlene and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I'm majoring in Public Health and currently an executive board member for Hui Ola Pono, a student registered independent organization dedicated to promoting Public Health within both the university and Hawai'i.

In 2011, The United States Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding states, "Among employed mothers, studies have found lower initiation rates and shorter duration of breastfeeding." It is a well known fact that breast milk is the most advantageous source of nutrition for infants. In Hawai'i, approximately 60 percent of employed women have children under the age of six. Employed mothers in the state of Hawai'i are at risk for early weaning from breastfeeding.

A lactation room at the Capitol would provide a private area for employees and the public to breastfeed or express milk. Mothers would not have to face inflexibility with a location to express milk or to store the expressed breast milk. According to the Hawaii Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Hawai'i's breastfeeding initiation rate is higher than the national average, yet exclusive breastfeeding rates drops significantly after two months.

This resolution would be a big step in demonstrating that we can have a lactation room in all workplaces. The hope is that with this resolution, we educate communities to promote positive health practices through the advantages of expressing breastmilk and providing private lactation rooms for our nursing mothers.

With a lactation room at the Capitol, it becomes more of a norm to express breastmilk at a workplace. I urge this committee to support an improved quality of life for mothers and our future generation.

Mahalo,

Charlene Nguyen

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 11:45:20 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Bilyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Senate Committee on Government Operations Members

Senator Thielen, Chair. Senator Inouye, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts Members

Senator Taniguchi, Chair. Senator Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair

FROM: Patricia L. Bilyk, RN, MSN, MPH, IBCLC

Maternal Infant Clinical Nurse Specialist

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019. 3:30 pm. Room 225

RE: **In Strong Support of SCR 170** Relating to DAGS Designating a Lactation Room in the Capitol

Aloha Senators Thielen, Inouye, Taniguchi, Ihara and Members of the Senate Committees on Government Operations and Labor, Culture and The Arts.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR 170. Also, I support the testimony provided by Breastfeeding Hawaii on this Resolution, and offer the additional comments.

As an advanced practice registered nurse for over 45 years, the last 30 as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), I've been involved with the protection , suppot

and promotion of breastfeeding in our State. In order to accomplish this mission in 1990, I created an organization, now called Breastfeeding Hawaii, whose professional volunteer members worked hard over the years to accomplish the many legal protections we have in our State for breastfeeding women. Dr.Pager was actively involved with me from the beginning, and a passionate advocate at the Legislature for the needs of breastfeeding women and their infants.

Dr. Pager and I talked about the need for a clean, private room at the Capitol for breastfeeding women who were participating in legislative activities. We felt this accommodation would demonstrate that Hawaii is Breastfeeding Friendly and actions at the Capitol would serve as a role model to other businesses and government offices throughout the State. Providing a private room is a supportive and culturally appropriate way to make it easy for women to breastfeed their baby or express their milk, thus increasing breastfeeding longevity. Though breastfeeding in public at the Capitol is legal, many women would appreciate a more calm spot to feed their baby or express their milk.

I support the naming of the Lactation Room after Dr. Pager and feel it is a fitting tribute to her legislative advocacy legacy.

Last I support the amendment in Breastfeeding Hawaii's testimony, directing the Legislature to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to David Pager, PhD, Dr Pager's beloved husband of over 50 years.

I urge these Committees to pass this Resolution and provide the funds to create this room at the Hawaii State Capitol.

Thank you.



To: Committee Chair Senator Laura Theilen  
Committee Vice Chair Senator Lorraine Inouye  
Committee on Government Operations

Committee Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Committee Vice Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

Date: March 20, 2019

RE: **Support for SCR170; Dedicating A Private Room In the State Capitol Building for Employees and Visitors to breastfeed or Express Milk**

The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS brings together government and non-governmental organizations to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. ECAS supports SCR170, relating to DAGS designating a lactation room in the Capitol.

Breastfeeding has tremendous benefits to both babies and moms. Numerous studies have shown that breastfeeding protects babies from many illnesses, can protect babies from developing allergies, has been linked to reduced rates of childhood obesity, and may reduce stress level and a mother's risk of developing postpartum depression. The Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative breastfeeding working group, collaborated with others to develop a State Breastfeeding Work Plan. A critical element within this State Breastfeeding Work Plan is to build concrete supports for the breastfeeding community with the objectives to increase protection, promotion and support for breastfeeding mothers in the workforce. It is important to ensure women who choose to breastfeed or express milk have a safe and healthy environment to do so in as a supportive way to nourish their keiki.

SCR170 would help support nursing mothers who either work or engage in the democratic process at the Capitol by providing a safe and healthy environment to provide their keiki with a nutritious meal. It could also serve as a model to other businesses, employers, and institutions as an easy way to support Hawai'i's keiki and families. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 4:10:34 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JoAnn Farnsworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 4:27:37 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amber Granite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SCR170 fully. As a former breastfeeding mother it can be difficult to find a place that is clean or has enough room to fit you and your child, particularly while they're laying on your side across your chest. Also, mothers need to know that they can count on their own government agencies and buildings to be breastfeeding friendly. Among the community of breastfeeding mothers we know what places are breastfeeding friendly and which ones are not. Target will let any mother go into a dressing room to pump or breastfeed her child, no additional questions or comments. It should really be a no brainer to pass this since it is legal to breastfeed in public in all 50 states now. It is a human right to be able to feed your child wherever and whenever you need to. Please, consider this bill to be another added bonus for the breastfeeding mothers out there who really deserve this clean and private space as well as a huge round of applause for choosing to give their child the ideal perfect food that only a mother can make. Mahalo

**LATE**

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 5:58:39 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Danielle Haile	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 6:53:19 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lark Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes please!