



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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB2506
RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Room: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Estimated at \$100,000 for modification to fetal death reporting system,
2 certificate ordering system, and retraining of personnel, with 1 year from enactment to
3 implement the modified system.

4 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports the intent of
5 HB2506 if sufficient funds and time are provided to implement.

6 HB2506 requires the Department of Health to develop and issue a new vital record certificate
7 called a “Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth” upon the request of the parent.

8 The U.S. Standard of Certificates of Birth, Death and Fetal Death are mandated by federal law.
9 Much effort and training were expended in the last revision of the national Standard Certificate
10 revision process to differentiate live birth and fetal death. In Hawaii all products of conception
11 require the reporting of either a fetal death or a live birth. The Certificate of Birth Resulting in
12 Stillbirth would be a new vital record but would include information already contained on the
13 fetal death certificate.

14 If the legislature were to appropriate the funds to modify the fetal death reporting system,
15 certificate ordering system, and retaining of personnel, and allow one (1) year to implement the
16 “Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth” then the department will be able to implement the
17 intent of HB2506.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:01:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Div.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. I feel it would mean so much to those parents. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony.

MOKU O MANOKALANIPO
THE KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

Date: Peleluali 11, 2020

To: House- Committee on Health

From: Moku o Manokalanipō, The Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Malia Nobrega-Olivera, President
malianob@gmail.com

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Luna Ho'omalua John M. Mizuno, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

I'm writing on behalf of Moku o Manokalanipō, The Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs which represents the four (4) Hawaiian Civic Clubs based on the island of Kaua'i.

Moku o Manokalanipō **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

Our members actively participate in our annual conventions and in 2017 the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted resolution 2017-40, strongly urging the State of Hawai'i Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, Moku o Manokalanipō respectfully urges the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

The Hawaiian civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and in 1968, the Hawaiian Civic Clubs on the island of Kaua'i organized Moku o Manokalanipō, the Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

***ASSOCIATION OF
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

A RESOLUTION

No. 2017 - 40

**STRONGLY URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF STILLBIRTH IN ADDITION TO A CERTIFICATE OF
FETAL DEATH**

WHEREAS, for Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond; and

WHEREAS, we honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in 2013, approximately 24,000 stillbirths were reported in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a stillbirth is the death or loss of a baby before or during delivery and is referred to as a fetal death; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, in the California Law Review it states that "Stillbirth is a devastating obstetric outcome—a reproductive moment that at once combines birth and death;" and

WHEREAS, the loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child; and

WHEREAS, having only a certificate of fetal death is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby; and

WHEREAS, respect should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, upon the loss of a baby due to stillbirth, parents complete the same forms as others and instead of receiving a birth certificate they are only issued a certificate of fetal death; and

WHEREAS, reporting requirements and completeness of reporting for fetal death data vary substantially among states; and

WHEREAS, according to the M.I.S.S Foundation website (www.missfoundation.org), there are currently 34 states in the United States that have passed legislation to issue a certificate of stillbirth which began in 2001 in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter 338, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Relating to Vital Statistics has two sections that refer to fetal deaths and these sections are 338-8, Compulsory registration of deaths and fetal deaths, and 338-9, Filing and preparation of death and fetal death certificates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 58th Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington, in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani, this 4th day of November 2017, strongly urging the State of Hawai'i Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon request from the mother or father, a certificate of stillbirth shall be issued by the department for any fetal death previously filed with the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fee for issuance shall be the same as the fee for a birth or death certificate issued by the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the certificate shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) Name of the stillborn child, 2) Date of delivery, 3) County of delivery, 4) Mother's name and birthplace, 5) Father's name and birthplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, Chair of the House Committee on Health & Human Services, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani on the 4th day of November 2017, at the 58th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Seattle, Washington.


Annette C. Amaral, President

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 9:44:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn	Waikiki Civic club	Support	No

Comments:

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2506.



KE ONE O KĀKUHIIHEWA

O'ahu Council of the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

BENTON KEALII PANG, PH.D.,-HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF
HONOLULU
PELEKIKENA

JACOB KA'ŌMAKAOKALĀ AKI-KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
HOPE PELEKIKENA

GEORGIANA NAVARRO-MĀKAHA HCC
HOPE PELEKIKENA 'ELUA

ALBERTA LOW-PEARL HARBOR HCC
PU'UKŪ

ROTH PUHALA -KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

CHRISTINE "CHRISSY" ANJO-PEARL HARBOR HCC
HOLE KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

'AHAHUI SIWILA HAWAI'I O KAPOLEI
LANCE HOLDEN

ALI'I PAUAHI HCC
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'U'LOA HCC
MARLEEN KAU'I SERRAO

HCC OF HONOLULU
ANITA NAONE

KAILUA HCC
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHI-PĀLAMA HCC
KAIMO MUHLESTEIN

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULOA HCC
RANAE "TESSIE" FONOMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC
ALICE P. HEWETT

LUALUALEI HCC
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC
LUANN LANKFORD-FABORITO

MAUNALUA HCC
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC
JAYCINE HICKS

PAPAKŌLE'A HCC
KEALI'I LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC
ANTOINETTE LEE

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC
A. MAKANA PARIS

PRINCESS KAI'ULANI HCC
RUSTY RODENHURST

QUEEN EMMA HCC
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIAWA
MARIE "MĀLIA" DOO

HCC OF WAIALUA
MAKALAPUA CASSON-FISHER

WAI'ANAE HCC
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKIKI HCC
L. PI'IKEA TOMCZYK

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO
KALANI KALIMA

Committee on Health

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB2506 - Relating to Vital Statistics

Aloha Chair John Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

Ke One O Kākuhihewa-O'ahu Council for the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HB2506. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

At its 58th annual convention in 2017, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, of which O'ahu Council is a member, adopted resolution 2017-40, urging the State of Hawai'i to issue a certificate of stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death (attached).

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby.

Thus, Ke One O Kākuhihewa respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2506.



Ke One O Kakūhihewa is a native Hawaiian council made up of 25 civic clubs on the island of O‘ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole on December 7, 1918.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana‘o*.

Sincerely,



Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.



***ASSOCIATION OF
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

A RESOLUTION

No. 2017 - 40

**STRONGLY URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF STILLBIRTH IN ADDITION TO A CERTIFICATE OF
FETAL DEATH**

WHEREAS, for Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond; and

WHEREAS, we honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in 2013, approximately 24,000 stillbirths were reported in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a stillbirth is the death or loss of a baby before or during delivery and is referred to as a fetal death; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, in the California Law Review it states that "Stillbirth is a devastating obstetric outcome—a reproductive moment that at once combines birth and death;" and

WHEREAS, the loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child; and

WHEREAS, having only a certificate of fetal death is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby; and

WHEREAS, respect should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, upon the loss of a baby due to stillbirth, parents complete the same forms as others and instead of receiving a birth certificate they are only issued a certificate of fetal death; and

WHEREAS, reporting requirements and completeness of reporting for fetal death data vary substantially among states; and

WHEREAS, according to the M.I.S.S Foundation website (www.missfoundation.org), there are currently 34 states in the United States that have passed legislation to issue a certificate of stillbirth which began in 2001 in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter 338, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Relating to Vital Statistics has two sections that refer to fetal deaths and these sections are 338-8, Compulsory registration of deaths and fetal deaths, and 338-9, Filing and preparation of death and fetal death certificates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 58th Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington, in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani, this 4th day of November 2017, strongly urging the State of Hawai'i Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon request from the mother or father, a certificate of stillbirth shall be issued by the department for any fetal death previously filed with the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fee for issuance shall be the same as the fee for a birth or death certificate issued by the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the certificate shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) Name of the stillborn child, 2) Date of delivery, 3) County of delivery, 4) Mother's name and birthplace, 5) Father's name and birthplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, Chair of the House Committee on Health & Human Services, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani on the 4th day of November 2017, at the 58th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Seattle, Washington.


Annette C. Amaral, President



Hawai‘i House of Representatives
Committee on Health

Pō‘alua, Pepeluali 11, 2020
Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 329
Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB 2506 - Relating to Vital Statistics

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu Mizuno, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HB 2506. This bill proposes the establishment of a document recording a stillbirth to be issued upon request in addition to a certificate of fetal death.

For Native Hawaiians, the cycle of life begins from conception on to birth, through life, to death, and beyond. As such, it is culturally important to formally record a life, even in cases of stillbirth. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families’ health and well-being. A certificate of stillbirth can be a meaningful part of the grieving and healing process. Existing State law only provides for a certificate of fetal death that alone may be a painful reminder of the tragic loss.

In recognition of this need, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Club adopted Resolution 2017-40 at its 58th Annual Convention entitled “Strongly urging the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death.” (see attached). Thus, the Association respectfully urges your committee to **PASS HB 2506**.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally

organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana* ‘o.

Me ka ‘oia ‘i ‘o,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hailama Farden', written in a cursive style.

Hailama Farden

Pelekikena

***ASSOCIATION OF
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

A RESOLUTION

No. 2017 - 40

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WHEREAS, for Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond; and

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WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in 2013, approximately 24,000 stillbirths were reported in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a stillbirth is the death or loss of a baby before or during delivery and is referred to as a fetal death; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, in the California Law Review it states that "Stillbirth is a devastating obstetric outcome—a reproductive moment that at once combines birth and death;" and

WHEREAS, the loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child; and

WHEREAS, having only a certificate of fetal death is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby; and

WHEREAS, respect should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, upon the loss of a baby due to stillbirth, parents complete the same forms as others and instead of receiving a birth certificate they are only issued a certificate of fetal death; and

WHEREAS, reporting requirements and completeness of reporting for fetal death data vary substantially among states; and

WHEREAS, according to the M.I.S.S Foundation website (www.missfoundation.org), there are currently 34 states in the United States that have passed legislation to issue a certificate of stillbirth which began in 2001 in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter 338, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Relating to Vital Statistics has two sections that refer to fetal deaths and these sections are 338-8, Compulsory registration of deaths and fetal deaths, and 338-9, Filing and preparation of death and fetal death certificates.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon request from the mother or father, a certificate of stillbirth shall be issued by the department for any fetal death previously filed with the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fee for issuance shall be the same as the fee for a birth or death certificate issued by the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the certificate shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) Name of the stillborn child, 2) Date of delivery, 3) County of delivery, 4) Mother's name and birthplace, 5) Father's name and birthplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, Chair of the House Committee on Health & Human Services, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani on the 4th day of November 2017, at the 58th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Seattle, Washington.


Annette C. Amaral, President



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

Board of Directors

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Kupuna

Aunty Betty Jenkins

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair

IN SUPPORT

HB 2506 - RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Aloha to the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committees.

Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL)—the Native Hawaiian Health Board established 30 years ago—is in support of HB 2506, which calls for the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth to the parents or parents named on a fetal death certificate issued in case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parents.

Papa Ola Lōkahi is authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (Title 42 USC 122), or NHHCIA, to address the health and well-being of native Hawaiians, which we do through multiple strategies: policy, research and data, traditional Hawaiian healing, education and training, workforce development, and more. Our sister programs include the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship and the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems that serve seven islands by providing primary, behavioral health, outreach and enrollment services. Additionally, our kuleana with the State includes protecting and perpetuating traditional Hawaiian healing practices and practitioners, per HRS 453-2(c) and Act 32 (2019).

The State of Hawai'i reports Native Hawaiian infant mortality at 7 deaths per live births, 1.3 times higher than the overall rate. The infant mortality rate for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is 60% greater compared to others, according to CDC (2019).

In addition, the cycle of life for Native Hawaiians begins at conception and extends beyond death. Motherhood is honored whether the child lives to adulthood or born live or still.

A fetal death certificate devalues the significance of the mother who has carried, delivered, buried, and experienced all postpartum symptoms absent the baby. For those with these beliefs, a certificate of stillbirth might reduce the indignity of a sole certificate of fetal death.

We urge the compassionate passage of this bill. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 2506.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Kōmike Mālama Ola

February 10, 2020

LATE

To: Ka ‘Aha Kenekoa-Committee on Health

From: Jane Ka‘alakahikina Pang, RN, PHN
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Chair, Kōmike Mālama Ola - Health and Human Services
E: kaalasplice@yahoo.com (714) 398-4495 (c)

Re: HB2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

As a retired nurse case manager with 39 years with Los Angeles County, Department of Hospitals, currently serving as chair for the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Kōmike Mālama Ola, Health and Human Services. In November, 2017, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs meeting at its 58th Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington, unanimously approved Resolution 2017-40 “STRONGLY URGE THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF STILL BIRTH IN ADDITION TO A CERTIFICATE OF FETAL DEATH”.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a body due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB 2506**.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:48:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorilani Keohokalole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members,

My name is Lorilani Keohokalole, I am a mother and I reside on the island of Kauai.

I submit this testimony in Support of HB2506, to give parents of stillborn babies the right to obtain a Certificate of Stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death.

As a mother of four children, I have so much compassion for other women that have carried their fetuses to term and for whatever reason, the babies pass. I had a personal experience while in the hospital doing an inversion at 39 weeks with a breech birth. In the room next door, was my sister in law who's baby's heartbeat had stopped the same day. While I was going through my "procedure", my sister in law was being given drugs to force her to "give birth" to her child. She did, eventually have the baby and as most experience in these situations, given the certificate of fetal death. Even though, she had the experience of giving birth to her child.

Parents, need closure and the documentation of birth is a huge piece to healing when there is a stillborn birth. It gives honor to the Mother, who has carried; nurtured and in many cases given birth to a child.

Whenever we celebrate my sons birthday, I think of this child. Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Lorilani Keohokalole

LATE



Luna O Nā Papa Alaka'i

House Committee on Health

Pelekikena

Anthony Makana Paris

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
9:30 am Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Hope Pelekikena 'Ekahi
Randi Fernandez

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB2506 – RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Hope Pelekikena 'Elua
K ā'eo Kealoha Lindsey

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and members of the House committee on Health:

Pu'ukū

Leilani Williams-
Solomon

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **SUPPORTS** HB2506. This bill for an act will require the department of health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents. At its 58th annual convention, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted resolution 2017-40, strongly urging the State of Hawaii Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth in addition to a certificate of fetal death.

Kākau 'Ōlelo Ho'opa'a
Sai Furukawa

The acknowledgment of the stillbirth life of a child through certificates can provide meaningful support to the 'ohana.

Kākau 'Ōlelo Palapala
Kamuela Werner

Pelekikena Hala Koke
Yvonne 'PeeWee' Ryan

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry and the professional fields of enterprise.

Nā Luna Alaka'i

Alan Akao
Kuni Agard
Puamana Crabbe
Kanani Pali
Marlene Sai
Bruce Wong

PKHCC urges the committees to PASS HB2506.

P.O. Box 4728
Honolulu, HI 96812

www.pkhcc.org

Me ke aloha,

A. Makana Paris
Pelekikena
president@pkhcc.org

*Founded in 1964
by Lili'uokalani
Kawānanakoa Morris*

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:57:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna K Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: February 11, 2020

To: Ka 'Aha Kenekoa- Committee on Health

From: Edsel & Kathryn Ralar & 'Ohana

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

We and our family **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For us as Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,
Edsel & Kathryn Ralar and Our Family

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:19:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Makanani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Proof of death, must be recognized as proof of birth. E ola e no keiki, Haloa

Date: February 11, 2020

To:House - Committee on Health

From:

Re:HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

On behalf of families and friends who have endure the lost of a child born live or still, I STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

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For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death; The issuance of a birth certificate recognizes the living or still child as an event that did take place and is respectfully acknowledged. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

Sincerely,

E. Momi Ka'iakapu-Lanning, M.Ed
Educator/Community Advocate

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:57:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As Kaua'i County Council committee chair of Public Safety and Human services, I support this bill HB 2506 in recognition of families who experience the full grief of the loss of their unborn child. It is important that this provision of a Stillborn Certificate is at the request of the parent, such that the policy is compassionate in implementation in this most difficult of experiences.

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 12:38:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
G Asi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill because every life matters and is cherished even in the womb.

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:38:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelle Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: February 11, 2020

To: Ka 'Aha Kenekoa- Committee on Health

From: 'Iolana Brewster
631 Pohala street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS



Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 3:51:18 PM
Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support the parents who experience such a tragic and devastating loss and pass this bill.

mahalo nui for your time and thoughtful compassionate consideration.

Date: February 11, 2020

To: Ka 'Aha Kenekoa- Committee on Health

From: Christopher Gaui

3510 W San Marcos Cir, West Valley, Utah 84119

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS



Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

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For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

Respectively submitted,

Christopher K Gaui

Edward Thompson, III

From: Kapuamohala Kirkland <kapuamohala.kirkland@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:21 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Fwd: Testimony for HB 2506



Date: February 10, 2020

To: House - Committee on Health

From: Jewelynn Kirkland

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

On behalf of the Parents Malia Nobrega-Olivera and Victor Olivera and their baby, Ka'aiohelo.

Mahalo,
Jewelynn Kirkland

Edward Thompson, III

From: kuulei akaka <kuuleiakaka@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 5:01 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS



Date: February 11, 2020

To: Ka 'Aha Kenekoa- Committee on Health

From: NARLETTE KU'ULEI AKAKA
kuuleiakaka@yahoo.com
45-435 Kulauli St.
Kāne'ohe, HI 96744

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

Edward Thompson, III

From: Tamara Swift <swiftt@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 8:18 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HB2506

LATE

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

Date: February 11, 2020

To: Ka 'Aha Kenekoa- Committee on Health

From: Kahanu Keawe, Anahola, Ko'olau, Kaua'i, kahanukeawe@gmail.com

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

LATE

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My 'ohana **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents. To go through labor and delivery is an emotional experience itself. Then to do this knowing or not knowing that your child does not have a heartbeat is excruciatingly painful especially knowing that you just gave birth to this child whom you consider your child and have developed a relationship with over the past 9-10 months. Parents should have the option and right to request a birth certificate as most parents have already named their child and been caring and anticipating their birth for months. This would help in the grieving and healing process for parents. Also to have a document that states they were born matters.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

Committee on Health
Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi



Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Re: Testimony in **Strong Support** of **H.B. 2506**, Relating to Vital Statistics

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of H.B. 2506.

My name is Letani George Peltier. I am a Native Hawaiian attorney and president of the King Kamehameha Hawaiian Civic Club. However, I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity.

As you are likely aware, in 2017 the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted Resolution No. 2017-40, STRONGLY URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF STILLBIRTH IN ADDITION TO A CERTIFICATE OF FETAL DEATH. This resolution was adopted, in part, due to the recognition that the issuance of a certificate of stillbirth may help to alleviate some of the stress and trauma that families experience when this tragic event occurs. Many other states have already passed similar legislation.

Because such a minor change can make a huge difference for families as they grieve and recover, I urge this committee to support H.B. 2506.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:59:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robbie Ann Shimose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: February 11, 2020

To: House Committee on Health

From: Robbie Ann K. Shimose

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2506.

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:14:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

I am testifying in strong support of HB2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

I honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. A mother carries a still born baby all the to term, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. This measure is a simple way we can respect and honor, the grieving parents by acknowledging both the birth and death of the baby.

Please support HB 2506.

Mahalo,

Fern A Holland BSc

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:51:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 6:01:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kardeen Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 6:11:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaunani Abad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable House Committee on Health Representatives,

Please support HB2506. This important bill would honor the lives and roles that stillborn children have played in families who came to anticipate and love these children as part of their cherished families.

The current system that does not acknowledge the lives of these children within the wombs of their mothers and the hearts of their 'ohana harms families who already suffer from their tremendous loss by threatening their loss as if it did not happen. Our children and families deserve better.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this measure.

Ke aloha,

Kāhaunani Abad

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:39:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Markel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: House - Committee on Health

From: Amy Markel

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

I SUPPORT HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death.

The record keeping of stillbirth will also provide more accurate numbers on the amount of still births our communities endure, rather than only fetal death numbers. The certificate not only ensures better record keeping but also provides the grieving mother and family with acknowledgment of life. .

Mahalo for your time,

Amy

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:20:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kehaulani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB 2506 for the 'ohana who would like the option to have a certificate of stillbirth. Let us honor every stage of life, and the wishes of families who endure this process.

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:17:37 PM
Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susie Chun Oakland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the House Health Committee:

I strongly support HB2506 and express my appreciation to your committee for seeing the successful passage of this bill through the legislature this year.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Susie Chun Oakland

LATE

HB-2506

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 8:41:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai:

My name is Kamuela Werner. I strongly **SUPPORT** HB2506 that would recognize the dignity of a stillborn child and the parentage of their grieving mothers and fathers.

Everything is in a name and the words we ascribe to it.

Me ke aloha nui,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

"I ka 'Ā• lelo no ke ola, i ka 'Ā• lelo nĀ• ka make."

In the language is life. In the language is death.

[Words can heal; words can destroy.]

Edward Thompson, III

From: Kealii Parker <kparker@kkv.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:32 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT for Bill HB 2506

Aloha Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health,

My family **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 2506 Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2506.

This would mean a great deal for my family and I, having lost our Anora Love, born still sleeping September 14, 2016. Her inoa imua, or first name is Kamala'anonalaninohomālieikapō, meaning the "beloved child of the heavens who chose to remain in the realm of Pō".

Mahalo nui!

Keali'i Po'olua

He lei poina 'ole ke keiki na ka makua.

A beloved child is a lei that will never be forgotten by a parent

Date: Peleluali 11, 2020

To: House- Committee on Health

From: Malia and Victor Nobrega-Olivera and the Nobrega 'Ohana
Hanapēpē, Kaua'i
malianob@gmail.com

Re: HB 2506 RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS

LATE

Aloha Luna Ho'omalua John M. Mizuno, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Bertrand Kobayashi,
and members of the House Committee on Health,

I'm writing on behalf of my family from Hanapēpē, Kaua'i.

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 2506** Relating to Vital Statistics. This bill requires the Department of Health to issue a certificate of stillbirth issued in the case of a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents.

I gave birth to my beautiful baby girl, a beautiful angel, Ka'ai'ōhelo, four years ago on June 8, 2015 at Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital. My due date was set for July 8, 2015. We were so excited for the arrival of our baby. She was my first born and baby grew inside of me for 36 weeks and was perfect in every way. We went in for a checkup and after the ultrasound the doctor told me that the baby didn't have a heartbeat. I looked at my husband and what do we say, what do we do, we were at a lost for words, we just lost our baby. So now what?

The next step was giving birth to our baby girl. The hānau (birthing) was an amazing process to experience, one that I will never forget and it was beautiful in every way. I experienced all the contractions, I did my breathing, my water broke, and she was ready to enter into this world. Once baby was born, my husband followed the nurse and baby got weighed and measured. He then brought Ka'ai'ōhelo to her mommy and I welcomed her with open arms and with tears in my eyes I greeted her with a honi and said, "Aloha e Ka'ai'ōhelo."

As we stared at her beauty and looked at each of her features, yes, I took off her hat and looked at her hair, I wanted to see her fingers and her toes.

I was surprised to have received a memory box from the hospital and I didn't leave the hospital with a baby but with a memory box w/ hand prints, foot prints, a lock of hair, and a few pictures. We now pay it forward and on behalf of baby Ka'ai'ōhelo, our 'ohana donates memory boxes for other parents.

I completed all the required paperwork before leaving the hospital including the information for a birth certificate like every other parent would.

He lei poina 'ole ke keiki na ka makua.

A beloved child is a lei that will never be forgotten by a parent

We also buried our daughter at the local cemetery next to her grandfather and uncle and were surrounded by family and friends.

Eventually I made my way to the Department of Health to request a copy of the birth certificate and death certificate and to my surprise they only issued me a Certificate of Fetal Death. I was hurt because I knew that I gave birth to my baby and like many other moms and dads I wanted to have a birth certificate and a death certificate.

For Native Hawaiians the cycle of life begins from conception, on to birth, death and beyond. We honor all mothers who have given birth to a child whether they were born live or still. The loss of a baby due to stillbirth remains a sad reality for many families and takes a serious toll on families' health and well-being. The mother carried the baby from conception, endures natural childbirth, has milk in her breasts, leaves the hospital without their child and later deals with the burial of their child. It is a troubling and oppressive reminder of a woman's failure to produce a healthy, living baby by having only a certificate of fetal death. Respect and honor should be shown for both the birth and death of the baby.

Our family respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS HB 2506**.

