



Submitted Online: 01/27/20

Hearing: January 29, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Strong Support for SB 2352 Relating to Safe Haven Law

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations.

Back in 2007, we submitted testimony in strong support of then bill HB 1830 because we believed that passage of the law would “very well save the lives of precious, helpless, defenseless newborns” by allowing birthmothers a ‘safe haven’ opportunity to lovingly ensure the safety and well-being of their babies.

Supporters of the law understand that safe-haven laws are designed to protect babies from harm or neglect when they are born to a young woman, who for many different reasons, may not be able to take on the responsibilities of parenthood. While there are those who may have a negative reaction to a mother who doesn’t feel ready for motherhood, we believe that the end goal is simple: to give an unwanted newborn the best possible chance to survive and thrive.

In our 2007 testimony, we asked for an amendment providing funding for ongoing education about the bill because initial evaluation of several state laws (at that time) had led some observers to note the importance of providing funding for public awareness. We appreciate that SB2352 appropriates necessary funding to the Department of Health to achieve the goal of engaging a public awareness campaign on the safe haven law here in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our testimony in strong support.

**SB-2352**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:48:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/29/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacey Jimenez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2352. The intent of the Hawaii "safe haven law" is to give a safe option for a parent that is overwhelmed with caring for a newborn child and desperate. These parents and children need help and not to be condemned. The option of "safe surrender" could be the difference between life or death of a child as well as peace of mind for the parents.

Though the law is a positive step in helping parents who may find themselves in a situation so desperate they must choose to surrender their child, the general public is not aware that the law exists. I am in full support of the state appropriating funds for an educational campaign so that the public is aware of this law and their options. This law could ultimately save lives but only if people are aware of its existence.

Please vote "Yes" on SB2352 to educate parents in Hawaii of their options when they are in need of help.

**SB-2352**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 9:56:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/29/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Algire	Testifying for Hawai`i Children's Action Network Speaks!	Support	No

Comments: