



Submitted online: March 27, 2022

TO: Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian Tam, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President & CEO, Hawaii Family Forum

RE: Strong Support for HCR59/HR53 Requesting the Department of Health to Issue
Certificates of Stillbirth

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. We support this resolution that will allow a parent, or parents to request a certificate of stillbirth upon request.

Stillbirth is an event that brings deep pain to parents who were expecting a much different outcome. Weeks, and sometimes months, of planning for the birth of child turns into a time of mourning. The simple act of providing an opportunity for these parents to request this certificate, will go a long way towards healing.

In addition, allowing for stillbirth that happened regardless of the date on which the fetal death certificate was issued, will allow the opportunity for more parents to make a request. Many families in this community have experienced a stillbirth, so this bill will be appreciated by them.

As people of faith, we strongly believe that life begins at the moment of conception. Therefore, when a mother nurtures that life within her womb, a bond forms that can never be broken. Even when that life passes, there is a deep desire to enshrine that relationship in a way that will bring healing and peace. In our opinion, this brings honor to both the parents and the child.

We truly appreciate this resolution for the sake of the mothers who request them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.