

January 28, 2013

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Honorable Mele Carroll
Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi

From: Lin Joseph
Director of Program Services
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

Re: In strong support of
HB398
Hearing: Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, January, 29, 2013 10:00 am
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express support for HB398, *which would require child care providers to develop, maintain and implement safe sleep policies for infants.*

For over 70 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in maternal and child health. Our mission is to *improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, and children. by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.* March of Dimes is in the midst of a long-term Prematurity Campaign to increase public awareness of the problems of prematurity and to decrease the rate of premature birth worldwide

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death in babies between one month and one year old, and is most common among babies between two and four months old. Premature babies are at increased risk for SIDS. A study published in the January 2013 *Journal of Perinatology* found that extremely premature infants had a significantly higher risk of dying from SIDS than full term infants.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that one in five SIDS deaths occurs while an infant is in the care of someone other than a parent. Many of these deaths happen when babies who are accustomed to sleeping on their backs at home are placed on their tummies for sleep by another caregiver. At the March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, we provide families with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit the AAP's *Parent's Guide to Safe Sleep* that emphasizes "Tummy to Play and Back to Sleep." The guide also recommends that parents talk to their baby's caregivers about reducing the risk of SIDS through safe sleep.

House Bill 398 would ensure that all registered or licensed child care providers would have the policies in place to maintain safe sleep environments for infants in Hawaii. March of Dimes urges the Committee on Human Services to pass HB 398.



Child & Family
SERVICE

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Kauai United Way
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Hawaii Island United Way



Aloha United Way

From: Michelle Rho
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To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services
January 29, 2013 – 10:00am
Conference Room 329

RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 398 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee,

My name is Michelle Rho, a committee member of Safe Sleep Hawaii, and a staff member of Child & Family Service in the Parent Line and HomeReach Program funded by the Department of Health. Parent Line and HomeReach is a statewide program open to all of Hawaii's residents. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of HB 398, Relating to Human Services.

Suffocation has been the leading cause of fatal injuries among healthy Hawaii keikis under the age of 1. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all infants under the age of 1 to sleep on their backs, in a safe sleeping environment. Although sleep related deaths are preventable, there is no formal policy that is in place to ensure that our young keikis are in a safe sleeping environment, positioned on their backs. **Hawaii is ONE of SEVEN states in the United States that does not regulate sleep positions in child care centers or family child care homes.**

By passing this measure, it will help prevent the occurrence of infants dying due to unsafe sleeping environments/positions. We strongly recommend you pass this measure. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to express my support for HB 398.

Aloha,

Michelle Rho

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

January 28, 2013

The Honorable Mele Carroll

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Human Services

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street,
Conference Room 329

From: Elizabeth Brauher, Program Manager, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii

Re: Support for HB398 Relating to Human Service

Madam Mele Carroll and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB398.

As the program manager for the Hawaii Cribs for Kids Program, I am responsible for educating high-risk low-income pregnant women on how to create safe sleeping environments for their infants as a means to reduce Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths in the State of Hawaii. While our program teaches parents how to create a safe sleeping environment for their infant, even if the parents perform the recommended safe sleep practices, if non-parental child care providers do not follow the same recommendations, the child is at risk for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, one in five Sudden Infant Deaths occur when the infant is being cared for by someone other than a parent. Many of these deaths occur when infants accustomed to sleeping on their backs at home are placed on their stomach by another caregiver. Infants subjected to unaccustomed tummy sleeping are 18 times more likely to die in their sleep (American Academy of Pediatrics). The only way to successfully reduce the number of sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths in the Hawaii is to educate all caregivers on the recommended safe sleep practices for infants.

I strongly support this bill as it will help further HMHB and the Public Health Community's efforts to decrease Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.

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To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services
January 29, 2013 – 10:00am
Conference Room 329

RE: HB 398 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee:

My name is Phoebe Mā'eie, a committee member of Safe Sleep Hawai'i and a staff member of Child & Family Service in the Parent Line and Homereach Program funded by the Department of Health. Parent Line/Homereach is a statewide program open to all of Hawaii's residents. I am contacting you to express my enthusiastic support for HB 398, Relating to Human Services.

Suffocation has been the leading cause of fatal injuries among healthy Hawai'i keiki under the age of 1 and is entirely preventable. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all infants under the age of 1 to be placed in a safe sleeping environment which consists of sleeping on their backs. Sadly, there is no formal policy in place to ensure that our young keiki are in a safe sleeping environment. Hawai'i remains as one of only seven other states in the country that does not regulate infant sleep positions in child care centers or family child care homes.

Passing this measure will help prevent fatal injuries for our keiki in the future. HB 398 will ensure all child care facilities (including family child care homes, group child care centers, group child care homes, and infant toddler centers) develop, maintain, and implement safe sleep policies and prevent the occurrence of infant death due to unsafe sleeping environments/positions.

It is for these reasons that the Safe Sleep Hawai'i committee strongly recommends the passage of HB 398 to safeguard the future of our most valuable resource, our keiki. Thank-you for your time and the opportunity to express my support for HB 398.

Aloha,

Phoebe Mā'eie



Aloha United Way

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