
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO JURY DUTY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Only one in five children in Hawaii receives
2 the absolute minimum of six months exclusive breastfeeding, and
3 fewer than one in three receives any breast milk at twelve
4 months as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and
5 the World Health Organization to reduce the risk of obesity,
6 diabetes, infectious disease, asthma, allergies, and certain
7 childhood cancers. Women who breastfeed their children benefit
8 with lower rates of breast and ovarian cancer, metabolic
9 syndrome, and type two diabetes. Society benefits with lower
10 health insurance costs and higher worker productivity.

11 Mother-child separation presents a serious challenge to
12 continuing breastfeeding. It costs nothing to exempt a
13 breastfeeding woman from jury duty, and this exemption can make
14 a big difference in preserving the breastfeeding relationship.
15 A woman should never have to worry about how she is going to
16 feed her baby while required to sit in a courtroom, or while
17 sequestered. Additionally, not every woman has the necessary
18 pump and supplies to pump milk for her baby. Since direct



1 breastfeeding is considered by experts to be superior to pumping
2 and bottle feeding, mothers who stay at home with their children
3 would not have a reason to own a pump.

4 The purpose of this Act is to meet the health needs of
5 Hawaii's mothers and babies by exempting breastfeeding mothers
6 from jury duty.

7 SECTION 2. Section 612-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "§612-6 Exempt when. A person may claim exemption from
10 service as a juror if the person is:

- 11 (1) An elected official while the legislature is in
12 session, or a judge of the United States, State, or
13 county;
- 14 (2) An actively practicing physician or dentist;
- 15 (3) A member of the armed forces or militia when on active
16 service and deployed out-of-state;
- 17 (4) An active member of a police or fire department;
- 18 (5) A person who has served as a juror, either in a court
19 of this State or the United States District Court for
20 the District of Hawaii, within one year preceding the
21 time of filling out the juror qualification form;



- 1 (6) An active member of an emergency medical services
2 agency;
- 3 (7) A person living more than seventy miles from the court
4 for which jury service is required; ~~[or]~~
- 5 (8) A person eighty years of age or older~~[-];~~ or
- 6 (9) A mother who is breastfeeding a child or expressing
7 breast milk; provided that this exemption shall apply
8 for a period of not more than one year from the time
9 the mother began breastfeeding the child, and shall
10 cease to apply when the mother is no longer
11 breastfeeding the child; and provided further that a
12 mother may be exempt under this paragraph for each
13 child that the mother breastfeeds.

14 For purposes of this section, "emergency medical services
15 agency" means any government agency, private agency, or company
16 that provides ambulance services, emergency medical services, or
17 disaster medical services."

18 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Breastfeeding; Jury Duty; Exemption

Description:

Exempts breastfeeding mothers from jury duty for up to one year.
Effective July 1, 2050. (HB2033 HD1)

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