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**SB368**

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HMS on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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A safe sleeping environment saves infants' lives. When the American Academy of Pediatrics started making safe sleep recommendations, SIDS rates declined. All babies should have a safe sleeping environment (put to sleep on their back, on a firm sleeping surface, without soft bedding), so that they have the best chance of surviving their first year.

I am the mother of two children. My husband and I both work full-time, so our children were in daycare when they were little. We were lucky that our daycare insisted on a safe sleeping environment for babies. **ALL families should have access to childcare that provides a safe sleeping environment for their babies.** We are entrusting our most precious, vulnerable members of our community with licensed caregivers -- and providing a safe sleeping environment should be an absolute requirement to be licensed to care for an infant. SB522, SB748, SB185, and SB368 will help make sure that licensed caregivers understand and follow these basic and crucially important principles of safe childcare. SB522, SB748, SB185, and SB368 will help save babies' lives.

My dear friend's son died when he was four months old. He was in the care of a childcare provider licensed by the state of Hawaii -- a childcare provider who promised (but did not provide) a safe sleeping environment for him. That provider lied when she said she would provide a safe sleeping environment for this sweet baby, and she lied about the circumstances of his death in her care. If SB522, SB748, SB185, and SB368 had been in effect, she and her staff would have had training in the importance of providing a safe sleeping environment, she would have had to certify that she would provide one, and there would have been penalties for her failure to do so. It is the most terrible, incomprehensible tragedy that this wonderful child is not with us today. Please, Hawaii legislators, do not allow this to happen to another baby. Please make sure that every licensed caregiver in the state has to provide a safe sleeping environment for infants.