

MAR 11 2016

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO ESTABLISH AND COMMUNICATE POLICIES  
REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM JURY SERVICE AND ACCOMMODATIONS  
FOR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS THAT ENGAGE IN JURY SERVICE.

1 WHEREAS, breastfeeding benefits mothers and children; and

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3 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics supports  
4 evidence that breastfeeding protects against a variety of  
5 diseases and conditions in infants, including bacteremia,  
6 diarrhea, respiratory and urinary tract infections, type 1 and  
7 type 2 diabetes, lymphoma, leukemia, and childhood obesity; and

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9 WHEREAS, there are also maternal health benefits to  
10 breastfeeding, such as decreased postpartum bleeding and more  
11 rapid uterine involution, decreased menstrual blood loss, and  
12 decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers; and

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14 WHEREAS, the societal benefits of breastfeeding include  
15 lower health insurance costs and higher worker productivity; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, with the World  
18 Health Organization and Institute of Medicine concurring,  
19 recommends exclusive breastfeeding for about six months, with  
20 continuation of breastfeeding for one year or longer as mutually  
21 desired by mother and infant; and

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23 WHEREAS, providing a six-month timeframe for breastfeeding  
24 helps families meet the recommendation for optimal infant  
25 health; and

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27 WHEREAS, however, for many mothers, breastfeeding can be  
28 difficult to begin and hard to maintain; and

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30 WHEREAS, jury duty can be burdensome to breastfeeding  
31 mothers, as mother-child separation creates a serious challenge  
32 to continued breastfeeding; and



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2 WHEREAS, women who serve on a jury may also lack access to  
3 a clean, private space to express breast milk; and  
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5 WHEREAS, supportive policies can help women continue  
6 breastfeeding; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the Judiciary has a policy that allows  
9 breastfeeding mothers to be exempt from jury duty for one  
10 calendar year and ensures that when breastfeeding becomes  
11 necessary private, designated spaces and times are provided for  
12 breastfeeding mothers; and  
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14 WHEREAS, however, this policy is not widely known or  
15 communicated to mothers who are summoned as prospective jurors  
16 by the court; and  
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18 WHEREAS, without knowing their options, women may feel they  
19 must choose between continuing to breastfeed their child or  
20 upholding their civic obligation by reporting to jury duty; now,  
21 therefore,  
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Judiciary is  
26 requested to review the information on the Judiciary's website  
27 and written information mailed to prospective jurors on how to  
28 request an exemption from jury service and accommodations for  
29 breastfeeding mothers that engage in jury service; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to  
32 revise information and forms, as appropriate, to clearly  
33 communicate the information to breastfeeding mothers; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to  
36 submit a written report to the Legislature regarding the review  
37 and revision of the policies and information relating to  
38 requesting a jury service exemption and accommodations for  
39 breastfeeding mothers that engage in jury service, including any  
40 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the  
41 convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and  
42



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice and  
Administrative Director of the Courts.

OFFERED BY:

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