

MAR 11 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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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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34 WHEREAS, women who serve on a jury may also lack access to
35 a clean, private space to express breast milk; and



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2 WHEREAS, supportive policies can help women continue
3 breastfeeding; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Judiciary has a policy that allows
6 breastfeeding mothers to be exempt from jury duty for one
7 calendar year and ensures that when breastfeeding becomes
8 necessary private, designated spaces and times are provided for
9 breastfeeding mothers; and
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11 WHEREAS, however, this policy is not widely known or
12 communicated to mothers who are summoned as prospective jurors
13 by the court; and
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15 WHEREAS, without knowing their options, women may feel they
16 must choose between continuing to breastfeed their child or
17 upholding their civic obligation by reporting to jury duty; now,
18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
22 that the Judiciary is requested to review the information on the
23 Judiciary's website and written information mailed to
24 prospective jurors on how to request an exemption from jury
25 service and accommodations for breastfeeding mothers that engage
26 in jury service; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
29 revise information and forms, as appropriate, to clearly
30 communicate the information to breastfeeding mothers; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
33 submit a written report to the Legislature regarding the review
34 and revision of the policies and information relating to
35 requesting a jury service exemption and accommodations for
36 breastfeeding mothers that engage in jury service, including any
37 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
38 convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and
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S.R. NO. 92

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

OFFERED BY:

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