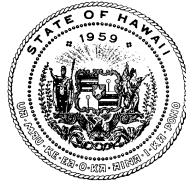


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Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 1033
Relating to Health

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 6, 2015

Room Number: 414

Fiscal Implications: Funding is necessary to convening the committee to conduct the comprehensive reviews, collect and analyze this data, produce and distribute related reports, and provide reimbursement for committee expenses such as travel.

Department Testimony: The Department appreciates the intent of this measure which establishes a maternal mortality review panel to conduct reviews of maternal deaths in Hawaii. The bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 324 to establish a Maternal Mortality Review Panel to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths in Hawaii to identify factors associated with the deaths and make recommendations for system changes to improve the delivery of health care and reduce maternal mortality in Hawaii. This panel would be responsible for submission of an annual report to the legislature on their activities, identifiable trends in maternal deaths, including recommendations for systems changes, and any proposed legislation to reduce the number of preventable maternal deaths. The Department does not currently have the capacity or resources to carry out the requirements of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Offered Amendments: None

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To: Senate Committee on Health

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 6, 2015, 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 304 and S.B. No. 1033
Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these bills. The Office of Information Practices (“OIP”) takes no position on these bills, which would establish a maternity mortality review panel within the Department of Health. OIP offers comments on proposed subsection 324-C(a), which exempts the proposed panel from part I of chapter 92, HRS, the Sunshine Law.

OIP generally advises the Legislature that the question of whether to create an exception to the Sunshine Law’s open meeting scheme is a policy question for the Legislature to decide, considering carefully whether the exception is warranted given the nature of the board and the issues it is charged with. However, given the nature of this board’s authority and likelihood that its discussions will largely involve individually identifiable medical information, OIP believes that the requested exception would be a reasonable measure to protect individual privacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.