
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO
DEDICATE ONE PRIVATE ROOM IN THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING FOR EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS TO BREASTFEED OR
EXPRESS MILK.

1 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American
2 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Academy of
3 Family Physicians, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, World
4 Health Organization, and many other health organizations
5 recommend that infants be exclusively breastfed for the first
6 six months of life and continue to be breastfed until 12 months
7 of age or longer as mutually desired; and

8
9 WHEREAS, women who give birth in Hawaii are likely to
10 continue breastfeeding eight weeks after delivery; and

11
12 WHEREAS, federal and Hawaii law require employers to
13 provide reasonable break time and a location, other than a
14 bathroom, for employees to express breast milk; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's employment practices law prohibits
17 employers and labor organizations from refusing to hire or
18 employ, barring or discharging from employment, withholding pay
19 from, demoting, or penalizing a lactating employee because the
20 employee breastfeeds or expresses milk at the workplace; and

21
22 WHEREAS, in 2011, the United States Surgeon General's *Call*
23 *to Action to Support Breastfeeding* identified barriers to
24 optimal breastfeeding in health care practices, employment,
25 communities, research, public health infrastructure, and social
26 networks, and recommended methods in which families,
27 communities, employers, and health care professionals may help
28 eliminate those barriers to improve breastfeeding rates and
29 increase support for breastfeeding; and



1 WHEREAS, research shows that breast milk and breastfeeding
2 provide advantages with regard to general health, growth, and
3 development while significantly decreasing the risk of a large
4 number of acute and chronic diseases such as sudden infant death
5 syndrome, asthma, allergies, diabetes, viral and bacterial
6 infections, childhood obesity, childhood leukemia, necrotizing
7 enterocolitis, and infant mortality; and

8
9 WHEREAS, mothers who breastfeed have a decreased risk of
10 breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer; postpartum depression; and
11 osteoporosis later in life; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the nutrients exclusive to breast milk are vital
14 to the growth, development, and maintenance of the human brain
15 and cannot be manufactured; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's
18 Economic Research Service estimates that at least \$3,600,000,000
19 would be saved if the rate of mothers breastfeeding in-hospital
20 and at six months increased to 75 and 50 percent, respectively;
21 and

22
23 WHEREAS, breastfeeding has positive economic impacts on
24 families by decreasing the need to pay for medical care for a
25 sick infant and eliminating the need to purchase infant formula;
26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, the health benefits of breastfeeding result in
29 lower health care costs for employers, less time-off for
30 employees to care for sick children, and higher productivity and
31 employee loyalty; and

32
33 WHEREAS, employers, employees, and society benefit from
34 supporting a mother's decision to breastfeed and from reducing
35 the obstacles to initiating and continuing breastfeeding; and

36
37 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the unique health,
38 economic, and societal benefits that breastfeeding provides to
39 infants, mothers, families, and the community as a whole and
40 affirms that the State of Hawaii should work to ensure that



H.R. NO. 132

1 barriers to the initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are
 2 removed; and

3
 4 WHEREAS, the Legislature encourages employers to strongly
 5 support and encourage breastfeeding by striving to provide
 6 appropriate space and time accommodations to allow employees to
 7 express milk; now, therefore,

8
 9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 10 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 11 of 2018, that the Department of Accounting and General Services
 12 is requested to dedicate one private room in the Hawaii State
 13 Capitol Building for employees and visitors to breastfeed or
 14 express milk; and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the room be dedicated to Dr.
 17 Sylvia Pager who was the first International Board-Certified
 18 Lactation Consultant Physician in Hawaii and worked to support
 19 and protect breastfeeding families in Hawaii; and

20
 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, State Comptroller,
 23 and Building Manager of the State Capitol Building.
 24
 25
 26

OFFERED BY:

Sen. A. A. A. A.

Kindred Ching

[Signature]

Guthrie Hicken

[Signature]

Nicholas K. Nelson

[Signature]

MAR 09 2019

