

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1923  
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUMO, CHAIR  
HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Hearing Date: January 31, 2018 Room Number: 329

**Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department of Health. The Department defers to the Department of Human Services on program and fiscal implications of H.B. 1923.

**Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports more than 4,500 sudden unexpected infant deaths occur in the United States every year. These deaths occurred among infants less than one year old and had no immediate obvious cause of death. The three most common reported causes of unexpected infant deaths are: 1) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, 2) unknown cause, and 3) accidental suffocation and/or strangulation in bed. The CDC identified several actions that parents and caregivers can take to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death. These include placing the babies on their back when putting them to sleep, using a firm mattress with a fitted sheet, keeping soft objects out of the baby's sleeping area, sharing the parents' room but not sharing the parents' bed with baby, and not smoking during pregnancy or around the baby.

The DOH is working collaboratively with Department of Human Services (DHS) in providing safe sleep education to child care providers. Activities include assisting DHS in sending out messages to providers and parents, speaking with providers, planning for training sessions, workshops, conferences, and conducting regularly scheduled meetings between child care providers, DHS, DOH, and other interested agencies and individuals.

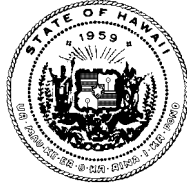
The DOH, Family Health Services Division is engaged in a number of safe sleep efforts including: reviewing hospital policies related to safe sleep education for parents; promoting the

1 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines of safe sleep when providing home visits  
2 with families; and participating in Safe Sleep Hawaii initiative. The Safe Sleep partnership  
3 includes: DOH, DHS, Department of Education, Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition, Kapiolani  
4 Medical Center for Women and Children, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and other  
5 agencies and advocates. The focus of this partnership is to provide statewide leadership in  
6 preventing infant deaths through educating parents, caregivers, teachers and health care  
7 providers on safe sleep practices following the AAP guidelines.

8 As members of Safe Sleep Hawaii, the Department of Health and the Department of  
9 Human Services partner to combine resources and promote safe sleep education and practices to  
10 reduce and/or eliminate preventable infant injuries and premature death.

11 Accomplishments of Safe Sleep Hawaii include: 1) The Parent Line, a DOH contracted  
12 statewide confidential telephone line for information and referral on child behavior, child  
13 development, parenting, caregiver support, and community resources; and 2) DOH-supported  
14 Cribs For Kids program with Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii the provides  
15 safe sleep education and a portable crib to families who cannot afford one.

16 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 30, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1923 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill and acknowledges the efforts of the Legislature, community members, and advocates to seek measures to prevent the tragic deaths associated with sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome.

DHS has addressed these concerns, and pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, promulgated amended administrative rules, effective February 24, 2017. Consequently, we provide comments that the measure as drafted is no longer necessary, and respectfully request that the measure be deferred.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require operators of child care facilities, including family child care homes, group child care centers, and group child care homes, and infant and toddler child care centers that care for children less than 1 year of age to comply with additional requirements for safe sleep policies to prevent sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome in accordance with rules adopted by DHS.

The primary focus of the DHS child care licensing program is on the health and safety of all children in child care. On January 4, 2017, DHS issued the proposed amendments to §17-891.1 Registration of Family Child Care Homes and §17-895 Licensing of Infant and Toddler

Child Care Centers, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The public hearing for the proposed rules was held on February 6, 2017. Written comments and oral testimony by the public were provided at the hearing. The comments and testimony received were given full consideration by DHS prior to the adoption of the amended rules; the rules became effective on February 24, 2017.<sup>1</sup>

The February 2017 rule amendments address the proposals found in Section 2, subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this bill. The February 2017 rule amendments are also more comprehensive than the proposed changes in this measure.

DHS respectfully requests that the measure be deferred or that the proposed sections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this bill be deleted, since all of the proposed amendments are now addressed in the HAR.

If these proposed changes are made part of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, any subsequent substantial changes to safe sleep policies or practices, would require statutory amendments before the administrative rules could be amended. As the body of knowledge related to sleep related deaths advances, the administrative rule process allows DHS to accommodate any changes to best practices and standards of care that may occur in the future.

DHS also notes that the Senate Committee on Human Services during the 2017 Legislative session tasked DHS to conduct a public outreach campaign to inform providers and families about safe sleep practices and the DHS requirements. In partnership with the Department of Health and in consultation with the Safe Sleep Hawaii Steering Committee, DHS developed a brochure that provides information to providers about the safe sleep requirements and why it is important to follow these rules. The final draft version is in review and DHS expects to send the brochure promoting safe sleep to all licensed and registered child care providers by mid-March 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> See the amended rules at: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/17-891.1-FCC-homes-amendments.pdf>

**HB-1923**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:06:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE**  
**OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: **Testimony in Support** of HB1923, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No HB1923, relating to sudden infant death syndrome, sudden unexpected infant death, and safe sleep policy. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. HB1923 and support its passage.

House Bill No. HB1923, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires safe sleeping policies by childcare facilities to prevent against sudden infant death syndrome. The DPH Platform provides that "[w]e must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive." (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 186-187 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. HB1923 requires operators of child care facilities, including family child care homes, group child care centers, and group child care homes, and infant and toddler child care centers that care for children less than 1 year of age to comply with safe sleep policies to prevent sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome in accordance with rules adopted by DHS, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**HB-1923**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:15:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2018 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments: