

hawaii family forum

February 5, 2003

President
Francis S. Oda

To: The Honorable Eric Hamakawa, Chair, Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Blake Oshiro, Vice Chair
Honorable Committee Members

Vice-President & Treasurer
Austin Imamura

From: Kelly M. Rosati, J.D.
Executive Director

Secretary
Nancy Pace

Re: Support for HB 133, Relating to Child Protection
Judiciary Hearing on Thursday, February 6, 2003

Directors
Murray Bawden
Mary Lou Brogan
Mitch D'Oller
Bill Paty

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. As such, we support HB 133, relating to child protection.

HB 133 may very well save the lives of precious, helpless, defenseless newborns. By allowing birthmothers a 'safe haven' opportunity to lovingly ensure the safety and well being of their babies, we discourage the horror stories we too often read about it the news.

If the life of even one newborn is saved because a birthmother is able to safely leave her baby at a hospital instead of abandoning him or her in a life-threatening situation, this Legislature will have helped save a life.

According to a January 31, 2003 ABC news report, 46 states have enacted this type of child protection law. Hawaii should join this majority.

Amendment Suggestion

Initial evaluation of these state laws has led some observers to note the importance of providing funding for public awareness. We would support an amendment for such funding.

We also stand ready, however, to promote awareness of such a law on our own, as a non-profit community organization. Either way, we believe HB 133 is good public policy that may save the lives of Hawaii newborns.

We urge your support of HB 133. Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.