

SR 97

**Measure
Title:**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
IMPLEMENTED BY HOSPITALS TO
REDUCE ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS
AND INDUCTION OF LABOR.**

**Report
Title:**

**Pre-term Births; Cesarean Sections;
Induction of Labor**



March 31, 2009

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair and Members of the Committee On Health
FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director
RE: **SCR145 and SR 97** Requesting the Department of Health to Review and Assess the Policies and Procedures Implemented by Hospitals to Reduce Elective Cesarean Sections and Induction of Labor
Hearing: Wednesday, April 1, 2009

My name is Jackie Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. We are in strong support of these resolutions. Birth by cesarean delivery has risen from 18% of all births to 26% of all births in seven (7) years (between 1999 and 2006). Premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death and one (1) out of eight (8) babies born in Hawaii are late pre-term birth, with only thirty-four to thirty-six completed weeks of gestation.

Preterm birth also results in higher medical costs; the average cost of medical care in the first year of life for those that survive is ten times greater than for those that are born full term.

This would allow us to review the criteria used by hospitals and physicians for indications to elective inductions or cesarean section, as well as the policies and procedures established by hospitals to reduce this practice.

Mahalo for your consideration of this issue and our testimony.