



Hawaii Chapter

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Organization: American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter

Measure: SB2133 SD2 HD1, Relating to Health

Committee on Finance, Rep. Bertha C. Kawakami, Vice Chair

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Time: 2:00 pm Room 308

Copies: 45

Testimony in Opposition to Part 3 of SB2133 SD2 HB1, Prohibiting the use of vaccines containing mercury.

SB2133, Part III requires that during the 2006-2007 influenza season preference shall be given to children under twelve years of age and pregnant women to receive no vaccine containing more than a trace amount of mercury, defined as 1.25 micrograms per administered dose amount. For the 2007-2008 influenza season, no vaccine or any product may be administered which contains mercury even in trace amounts.

The Institute of Medicine has published two reports, 2001 and 2004, which refute any causal relationship between thimerosal and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism. The AAP has supported those findings.

The AAP's position is that the known serious risk of illnesses and death caused by failure to immunize infants against vaccine preventable diseases outweighs the unknown and probably smaller risk, if any, from exposure to thimerosal. The AAP believes that immunizations should not be interrupted due to a lack of preservative-free vaccines.

One of the consequences of this legislation, if passed, will be to make parents fearful of all immunizations. The immunization rates will go down and children will become more likely to acquire the dangerous diseases prevented by immunization.

In 2005, although six states enacted legislation which bans thimerosal, sixteen state legislatures rejected similar bills. So far in 2006, at least one legislature has rejected such legislation.

Passage of Part 3 of this legislation will have only one measurable impact- making the state less able to protect its most vulnerable populations.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics asks that SB2133 be amended to remove Part III which prohibits the use of vaccines containing mercury.