

HB2881

HD2

Measure Title:
RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE.

Report Title:
Health; Women; Perinatal Care (\$)

Description:
Makes the perinatal clinic first established by Act 248, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006,
permanent. Appropriates funds. (HB2881 HD2)

Introducer(s):
LEE, AWANA, BERTRAM, GREEN, SHIMABUKURO, YAMANE

Current Referral:
HTH/HSP, WAM

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 14, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2881 H.D. 2 – RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE
Hearing: Friday, March 14, 2008 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to continue operations and services for the perinatal clinic currently in the University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine and appropriates unspecified State general funds.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that its passage does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

We support sustaining perinatal clinic and case management services to women on Oahu with a history of substance abuse. Last year, the Department was agreeable to being appropriated the funds to contract with the University Clinical Educational and Research Associates program at the University of Hawaii, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health to continue the pilot perinatal clinic and the provision of case management

services because the Department would have been able to enhance any State funds with matching Federal funds. The Department recommends that we continue this collaboration with the University of Hawaii or any other appropriate public or private agency for which DHS can draw down allowable matching Federal funds.

We would also recommend that a report be provided to the Legislature by the Perinatal Clinic describing the services being provided, to whom the services are being provided, and the effectiveness of the services before the pilot status of the Clinic is removed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
March 14, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.**

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB2881 HD2 - Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Ige, Chair Chun Oakland, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. We are grateful to the Legislature's attention to these needs. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

This program is currently underway with the involvement of the John A. Burns (JABSOM) faculty and staff. It addresses an important need in the state and preliminary assessment of our activities suggests we are having a positive impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.



Date: March 14, 2008
Committee: Health
Bill: HB 2881, HD2; RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE

Honorable Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee On Health

My name is Jackie Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. HMHB IS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2881, HD2, WHICH PROPOSES TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF THE PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT CLINIC ON OAH'U (PATH Clinic). This perinatal clinic provides comprehensive prenatal, delivery, postpartum care, and social services to pregnant women with a history of substance use.

The clinic opened in April, 2007 and has served over 50 women, most pregnant or immediately postpartum. The goal of the comprehensive care and services provided by the clinic is to improve outcomes for both mother and infant. There is general agreement that supportive and respectful care that addresses the perinatal, substance use, mental health, and pediatric aspects of at-risk pregnancies is optimal to get substance using women in for needed services.

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs state "the threat of criminal prosecution prevents many women from seeking prenatal care and early intervention for their alcohol or drug dependence,dissuades women from providing accurate and essential information to health care providers. The consequence is increased risk to the health and development of their children and themselves."

We urge your support for the passage of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this issue and our testimony.



March 13, 2008

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

From: Tricia Wright, MD, Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

Re: In strong support HB2881 RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE.
Makes the perinatal clinic first established by Act 248, Session Laws of
Hawaii 2006, permanent.*

I am writing to urge you to continue support of the PATH clinic. As you are aware the clinic was established from funding by ACT 248 in 2006 and the funding continued by ACT 147 in 2007. The PATH clinic opened in April, 2007 and since that time, we have served over 60 women, most pregnant or immediately post-partum. We have had 16 women deliver healthy infants so far, all but one was clean at the time of delivery. The one woman who was using at the time of delivery has since gone into residential treatment with her infant, and has remained clean since that time. We have multiple testimonies from the women that we've helped begin a new life.

Since opening, we have continued to add services. We now have an addictions fellow seeing the women for assessments and treatment of co-occurring psychiatric disorders. We are in the process of adding a full-time therapeutic child care provider who has been working with the women, teaching parenting skills. We have obtained two small grants from the Women's Fund of Hawaii, supporting the building of self-esteem through therapeutic craft projects and from the March of Dimes of Hawaii supporting our motivational incentive program.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to find a pediatrician willing to be a primary care provider for the infants, but we are still looking.



The clinic is currently billing Medicaid and other third party payers for our services when appropriate, which has offset some of the costs, however the clinic still requires approximately \$300,000 per year to cover the costs of the social worker, nurse manager, child care provider and medical assistant. Last year the money went through the department of human services and then to UCERA, as the current amendment states.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tricia Wright, MD

* Not an official position of the University of Hawaii



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
o f h a w a i ' i

March 14, 2008

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To: Committee on Health
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: HB 2881 HD2 Relating to Perinatal Care
Hearing: March 14, 2008, 1:15 p.m., Room 016

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii supports this measure which makes the perinatal clinic program permanent and requests program funding. The perinatal clinic provides prenatal care and other services for pregnant, substance-using women.

Without the clinic, services that provide appropriate health care to substance using pregnant women to ensure the birth of a healthy baby are either extremely limited or unavailable.

The clinic's programs provide both substance abuse treatment, prenatal care, and follow up services in a supportive environment rather than a punitive one. One of the barriers to women seeking perinatal care is fear of prosecution. This type of program recognizes the importance of a public health approach to the issue of pregnant drug-using women.

The clinic would be cost-effective as it would help prevent low-birth weight babies and premature births. It would also encourage mothers to become the nurturing mothers that their children need.

In the short time it has been operating, the clinic has already had positive results.

Please pass this bill and recommend full funding for the clinic. It is a good investment for the state and would in the long run save the state money. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Renee Schuetter [rschuetter@ucera.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 4:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Health and Human Services Committee - In strong support of HB 2881

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services

Nancy Nakihei

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Support of H.B. 2881

My name is Nancy Nakihei. I am a patient of the PATH Clinic. I fully support the PATH Clinic continuing their special services. The medical treatments from the OB/GYN and psychological area are vital and delicate in their professions. They take a thorough understanding evaluation of you. They are sensitive to your needs regardless of medical coverage.

Not only do they provide basic prenatal care, this clinic covers a variety of drug education classes, parenting workshops, healthy relationships, and also has a day out of the week to do activities such as sewing, hands-on care with children and free discussions with one of the healthcare professionals.

The clinic is unique in its own way. First, it is located in a house which is very warming for the women and children. Secondly, they have a generous incentive program for active participation in groups and other areas in the clinic. They will also provide cab rides to and from the clinic, if you don't have any transportation. It is wonderful, knowing that you're in for a comfortable ride especially during pregnancy. The PATH Clinic is providing things beyond its mission statement and calling; such as its social work, for instance if you don't have any housing they will work with you immediately to find a solution temporarily, until something more permanent turns out, which is more than I can say about other services that just gives you the wait and run arounds. A lot of women like me were lost in the system and didn't have any reliable answers or referrals to be directed to. Luckily for the PATH Clinic's outstanding social work they will make the time for you to get whatever help or concern it is that you need and make forward progress. Lastly, I would like to compliment their family-based environment. The staff here is very welcoming and supportive throughout all your needs. They are non-judgmental and confidential with any information you share, which makes it really less-discouraging. Being open and honest knowing that you are coming from a challenging background or presently being challenged and able to come to a place like this and have some peace are very encouraging and reassuring on your conscience. Sometimes they have family-like gatherings on the holidays and they provide food, fun, and games for the women and children and it's just a great feeling for people who don't have any family there for them.

I hope to see the PATH Clinic in the future still operating on its remarkable purpose. One day I seriously wanted to end my life because I didn't know what to do, who to turn to, and how to do, until I looked up when I was riding city bus and read the PATH Clinic's advertisement. They took care of me and other women and their families. This clinic needs

to stay open for the sake of people like us in these trialing times of our lives; individually and specifically in REAL RESULTS for programs to help us become a productive member of society. I urge the committee to pass H.B.2881 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nakihei



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The Salvation Army

Family Treatment Services

Senate Committee on Health
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

H.B. 2881 -- Relating to Perinatal Care

Good morning Chairs Ige and Chun-Oakland., and Co-Chairs Fukunaga and Ihara I am Linda Rich, Executive Director of The Salvation Army Family Treatment Services which operates the Women's Way residential alcohol and drug treatment program for pregnant and parenting women and their children.

I would like to testify regarding the benefits of passing HB 2881..

Substance abusing and chemically dependant women who become pregnant often avoid prenatal care because of shame and fear. This may result in serious health consequences for themselves and their children. A clinic providing specialized, comprehensive care has the potential to reduce the incidence of a number of complications of pregnancy including low birth weight, stillbirths, miscarriages, infant mortality, prematurity and developmental disorders associated with maternal alcohol and drug use. Additionally, the woman's health may already be compromised by the affects of chronic drug or alcohol use leading to serious threats to her well being during pregnancy and labor and delivery. The PATH Clinic, Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii, has been providing effective comprehensive services to reduce the medical risk for addicted women in pregnancy, increasing positive birth outcomes.

In addition to providing prenatal care, this clinic is designed to address the emotional and behavioral and environmental issues related to the woman's substance use and to assist women to access and utilize both medical and behavioral health treatment. The clinic staff is trained to provide motivational interventions to encourage abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. They provide outreach and transportation, critical components in reaching this population and keeping them engaged in treatment. The clinic has had success in helping women maintain abstinence and in referring those in need of more intensive treatment into appropriate programs. Their holistic approach to care is based on best practices and is supported by research related to this model of care The PATH Clinic is a vital component of the State's response to the methamphetamine epidemic that is devastating families and increasing the State's costs related to Child Welfare and incarceration.

Family Treatment Services, which operates the Women's Way alcohol and drug treatment program for pregnant and parenting women and their children, has supported the development of this clinic. We believe that this clinic meets a community need for specialized OB-GYN care for women at risk due to substance

Participating Agency



Aloha United Way

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Family Treatment Services

abuse. Pregnant substance using women often want to deliver a healthy infant but are unable to stop their drug use and, out of fear, do not seek prenatal care leading to the complications already listed. In other communities, clinics such as this have increased the numbers of substance using women who have stopped or significantly reduced their drug use in pregnancy by providing a safe, respectful medical environment in which addiction can be addressed in a direct but compassionate manner as a health issue. Family Treatment Services intends to continue to coordinate closely with the clinic, refer women to it, and accept referrals from the clinic when residential treatment is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Participating Agency



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