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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

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

**S.B. 2790, Relating to Perinatal Care**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**February 5, 2008, 1:15 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of S.B. 2790 but cannot  
2 support an appropriation that is outside the executive budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill appropriates \$100,000 in general funds.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Hawaii Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)  
5 data (2005-2006) on pregnancy behaviors of women that recently delivered an infant shows that five  
6 percent of women reported drinking alcohol in the last three months of pregnancy, and three percent  
7 reported use of illicit drugs. Substance use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs is known to increase the  
8 prevalence rate of infant mortality and morbidity, preterm and low-birth weight infants, birth defects,  
9 and impact the cost of caring and educating children with special needs. The DOH, through its Family  
10 Health Services Division, Maternal and Child Health Branch administers statewide perinatal services to  
11 women with medical and psycho-social high risk factors as well as the Baby S.A.F.E. (Substance Abuse  
12 Free Environment) program in three geographic areas (Waianae, Maui County, and Hawaii County)  
13 with services to prepare substance using pregnant women for substance abuse treatment. It is also  
14 necessary to have in place a facility which can serve as a referral source for prenatal and postpartum  
15 women with a history of substance use to be referred for substance abuse counseling; pediatric care and

1 appropriate developmental screening; psychiatric care for patients with dual diagnosis; case  
2 management and to ensure a safe home environment. The Oahu based perinatal clinic provides these  
3 necessary resources, interventions, and support services.

4 The Department of Health is concerned that S.B. 2790 amends Act 248 to establish the Perinatal  
5 Clinic within the Department of Human Services, as opposed to the University of Hawaii who is  
6 currently operating the clinic.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

February 5, 2008

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To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing and  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 2790 Relating to Perinatal Care  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 1:15 p.m., Room 016

Position: Strong Support

I am in strong support of SB 2790 Relating to Perinatal Care which requests moving the program to the Department of Human Services and also requests funds to extend the program for the perinatal clinic which 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 families to stay together and avoid the foster care and child protective services systems.

Please pass this bill and extend funding for the clinic. I feel 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.

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Human Services and Public Housing Committee

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee

From: Cindy Nguyen, UH MSW student

Subject: SB 2790 Relating to Perinatal Care  
Tuesday, February 5, 2008 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to continue operations and services for the perinatal clinic within the Department of Human Services.

Position: Support of SB 2790 with Amendments

My name is Cindy Nguyen. I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii. More importantly I am a mother of two beautiful and healthy children. I am also a doula (labor support professional) and understand the significance of a healthy and monitored pregnancy, supportive childbirth, and follow-up care to the demanding challenges that this transition brings. I strongly support SB 2790, relating to perinatal care for at-risk women who have a history of substance abuse. This care would provide comprehensive maternity services, substance abuse counseling, pediatric care for the infant, psychiatric care for the mother, and overall case management.

This program is one of the few, if not the only program in the state that provide a comprehensive service to this incredibly at-risk population. Not only does the program impact the lives of its current participants, but it affects the lives of our future generation as infants are given the immediate interventions for a healthy start. This program is proactive in its response to some of our most pressing issues relating to substance abuse and child welfare.

As the program is gaining more popularity in the community as a safe place for women to receive perinatal care, the funds that are appropriated do no justice to the needs of the community. I propose that the bill be amended to provide more funding for this program. We cannot afford not to support this bill or give it only \$100,000 to operate.

I urge the committee to pass SB 2790 with amendments for more funding so that the program can provide care to more women in need. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.