

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LATE TESTIMONY
LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
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February 5, 2008

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 2790 – RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE
Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

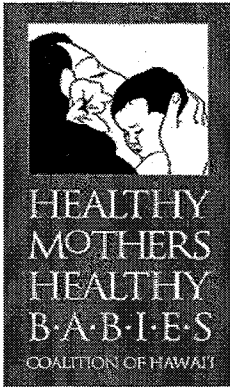
PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to continue operations and services for the perinatal clinic currently in the University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine by transferring the clinic to the Department of Human Services and appropriates funds

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill but must oppose it, as written. The Department cannot support placing the perinatal clinic within DHS. The Department does not provide direct medical or substance abuse services to clients. The Department will gladly collaborate with appropriate public or private agencies to continue the pilot project if we are given the authority to contract for these services, provided the funding for this clinic does not adversely impact nor replace 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE TESTIMONY

Date: February 4, 2008
Committee: Human Services and Public Housing
Bill: SB 2790; RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE

Honorable Chairperson Chun-Oakland and Members of the Human Services and Public Housing Committee:

My name is Jackie Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. HMHB IS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2790, 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.

LATE TESTIMONY

SB 2790

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members Committee on Housing and Human Services

From: Tricia Wright, MD FACOG
Assistant Professor Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health Medical
Director, Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii (PATH) Clinic University of
Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

Re: In strong support of continuing financing the perinatal clinic

Dear Ms. Chun Oakland, Mr. Ihara and members:

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. I strongly urge you to continue to fund the clinic.

The bill should be amended to say that the clinic is operated through the University of Hawaii Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health with funding through the Department of Human Services.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tricia Wright