



March 12, 2008

PLEASE DELIVER to:

House Health

Committee

March 12, Wednesday

8am

Room 329

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To: Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
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Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
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From: From: Cynthia J. Goto, M.D., President
Linda Rasmussen, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Philip Hellreich, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Paula Arcena, Executive Director
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Re: SB 2790 SD2 Relating to Perinatal Care

The Hawaii Medical Association supports SB 2790 SD2.

We support continued funding for the continuing of the perinatal clinic that will provide comprehensive prenatal, delivery and postpartum care and social services on Oahu to women with a history of methamphetamine and other substance abuse will be very beneficial to both the mothers and children involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Hawaii Medical Association
1360 S. Beretania St.
Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 536-7702
(808) 528-2376 fax
www.hmaonline.net

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health and
House Committee on Human Services & Housing
March 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.**

by

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

SB 2790, SD2 Relating to Perinatal Care

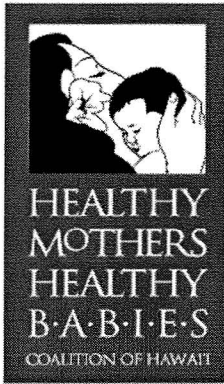
Chair Green, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

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 Hawaii. 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.

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Date March 10, 2008
Committee: On Health and On Human Services & Housing
Bill: SB2790,SD2

Honorable Chairperson Green, Chairperson Shimabukuro, and Members of the Health, Human Services & Housing Committees

My name is Jackie Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. HMHB IS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2790, SD2, 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.

1500 South Beretania St, #308, Honolulu Hawaii 96826
phone # (808) 951-5805, fax # (808) 941-4102
e-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org

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the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

March 12, 2008

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P.O. Box 61233
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Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: info@dpfhi.org
Website: www.dpfhi.org

To: Committee on Health
Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 2790 SD2 Relating to Perinatal Care
Hearing: March, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Room 329

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii strongly supports SB 2790 SD2 Relating to Perinatal Care which requests funds to extend the program for the perinatal clinic which provides prenatal care and other services for pregnant, substance-using women.

This measure provides a public health approach to substance use; an approach supported by the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

As testified previously, 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 and the stigma attached to addiction and pregnancy. This type of program recognizes the importance of a public health approach to the issue of pregnant drug-using women.

The clinic has already proven its ability to treat pregnant women and have them drug-free when their babies are born. This is not only a desired result, but is a cost-effective one as it helps prevent low-birth weight babies and premature births. Since the clinic also provides other services for the mother and baby, it also encourages healthy family relationships.

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

Dedicated to safe, responsible, and effective drug policies since 1993.

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March 11, 2008

To Representative Josh Green, MD, Chair
John Mizuno, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health

Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services & Housing

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 SB2790 RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE.
Continues funding of the perinatal clinic.*

Dear Dr. Green and Ms. Shimabukuro and others:

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 65 women, most pregnant or immediately post-partum. We have had 17 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.

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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.

While we prefer the wording in HB2881, as it makes the funding permanent, we strongly urge you to pass whichever bill will continue funding.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tricia Wright, MD

* Not an official position of the University of Hawaii

May Mizuno

From: Renee Schuetter [rschuetter@ucera.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 4:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: IN Strong Suuport of HB 2881/ SB 2790

Rep. Josh Green, Chair

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Committees on Health; and Human Services and Housing

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

May Mizuno

From: Renee Schuetter [rschuetter@ucera.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 4:53 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: In Strong Support of HB 2881/SB 2790

Rep. Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Health

Lashelle Wyatt

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Support of H.B. 2881

My name is Lashelle Wyatt. I am a patient of the PATH Clinic. I strongly support H.B. 2881, which would appropriate funds to continue operations and services of the PATH Clinic.

I support the PATH Clinic because it has been very beneficial for me and my unborn son. The staff here has been very supportive, and also my peers. I look forward to coming Monday through Thursday. I think the clinic should remain ongoing. Others could really benefit, especially mothers who have substance abuse issues. I know because I suffer from addiction. And it's also a good start for mothers who use during pregnancy, so their unborn child can receive early intervention. It's overall a very safe and supportive place to be, very warm.

I urge the committee to pass H.B.2881 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lashelle Wyatt