



LATE

January 29, 2010

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

RE: **SB 2203 Relating to Health Care Enterprise Zones**

Hearing: Friday, February 5, 2010 at 2:45pm

Honorable Chairperson Ige, Vice Chairperson Green and Members of the Committee on Health
Honorable Chair person Fukunaga, Vice Chairperson Baker and Member of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in support of SB 2203 Relating to Health Care Enterprise Zones. This bill adds a new part to chapter 209E that establishes health care enterprise zones to provide tax and loan incentives for primary care practitioners located in health care enterprise zones.**

One of the central components to ensuring access to health care is having qualified health professionals to provide the services. As we all know, there are areas of the State of Hawaii that have very serious shortages. The data on access to prenatal care indicates that a major reason for late and inconsistent prenatal care is access to physicians, particularly on the island of Hawaii and in the rural areas of Oahu. Getting appropriate and timely prenatal care is a major indicator affecting birth outcomes.

We urge you support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

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