

HB 129

HD2, SD1

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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

March 31, 2011

TO: The Honorable David Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Member

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 1, 2011; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 129 H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure appropriates funds for the continued operation of the Path Clinic and the services it provides.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. PATH is a comprehensive perinatal addiction clinic that integrates prenatal/postpartum obstetric clinical services.
2. PATH offers non-judgmental, compassionate and professional services to the women who access their services. They serve the most difficult population of pregnant women – those who are using drugs. Many of these women are afraid to access care for fear of losing their children and/or unborn child.
3. PATH proves that providing appropriate parenting education and other social services to enable mothers to successfully parent their children affect repeat pregnancy rates.
4. PATH saves money and lives and gets us on the road to building strong and healthy communities

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

GCB:amm



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

Friday, April 1, 2011; 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 211

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, ViceChair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Morris Mitsunaga, MD, President
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB 129, HD 2, SD 1 RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE

In Support

Chairs and Committee Members:

Women who received prenatal services at PATH are at a very high risk for preterm birth and low birth weight births. However, the birth weights at PATH were consistent with state and national averages for all births.

While PATH is not a substance abuse treatment program, over 80% of the women stopped using drugs. 94% tested clean of substances at the time of birth. Over half of the women who tested positive for drug use at birth entered residential substance abuse treatment, often noting that their experience at PATH contributed to their readiness to accept treatment.

Clearly PATH is the path to breaking the addiction/pregnancy cycle. This cycle is extremely costly to the government.

The clinic has been successful in enabling its patients to become successful parents and encouraging families to stay together.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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To: Honorable David Y. Ige
Honorable Michelle Kidani

Hawaii Chapter
1451 King Street, Suite 504
Honolulu, HI 96814
Telephone (808) 973-2155
Inter-island 1-800-272-5240
Fax (808) 973-2160

From: Lin Joseph
Director of Program Services
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

marchofdimes.com/hawaii

Re: In strong support of
HB129 HD2 SD1

Hearing: Friday April 1, 2011
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for HB129 HD2 SD1: *Appropriates funds for the continued operation of the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii program and clinic.*

Since opening in 2007, the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii (PATH) clinic has provided comprehensive perinatal care to women with alcohol and substance abuse issues on Oahu. The care is focused on the social, medical and behavioral health needs of pregnant women who are using substances.

The interests of mothers and their babies are interdependent and substance abuse threatens the health of both. Drug abuse during pregnancy can lead to low birth weight, prematurity, birth defects, and infant mortality. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that in the United States 6 million women of childbearing age are current users of illicit drugs. In Hawaii, the Department of Health found that, using self-reports, approximately three percent of women reported using illicit drugs while they were pregnant, six percent admitted drinking alcohol, and more than eight percent reported smoking while pregnant. These figures reveal an unnecessary burden of risk and damage to infants.

The PATH clinic has demonstrated very successful outcomes in the first three years of operation. They report that 80% of women become abstinent of all substances except tobacco within two months of beginning PATH services, and that the clinic's preterm birth rate and low birthweight rates are at or below state and national averages in a population at high risk for poor birth outcomes.

For more than 70 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in improving the health of women of child bearing age, infants, and children. The Foundation works to prevent or reduce drug abuse before and during pregnancy by funding community programs such as PATH (grants to PATH in 2008 and 2009) and by supporting basic research regarding reproductive hazards, including substance abuse. Our mission is to *improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.*

March of Dimes encourages the members of the Committee on Ways and Means to join us in helping to improve the health of all babies.



DATE: March 30, 2011

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. David Ige, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

HEARING: Friday, April 1, 2011 at 9:00 p.m.

RE: **HB129, HD2, SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care**

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (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 in strong support of HB 129, HD2 Relating to Perinatal Care.**

The Path Clinic is the only comprehensive prenatal addiction clinic in Hawaii. The Path Clinic was initially funded as a pilot program by an act of the Hawaii Legislature with the goal of improving birth outcomes of pregnant women who used methamphetamines (estimated to be 4-8% of pregnant women in Hawaii).

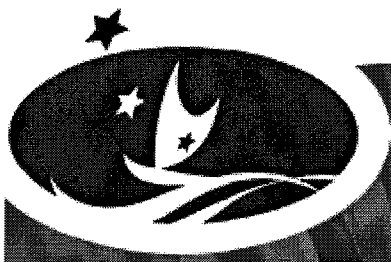
Since its inception, the Path Clinic has far exceeded expectations. The population of women serve are known to have a 4-5 times greater risk for costly preterm and low birth weight deliveries. However, the preterm and low birth weight rates for the 180 women who have received Path services are comparable to the average rates for all women statewide. This is remarkable given the risk level of the population of women served: 98% lived below the poverty level; 57% had lost custody of a previous child; 34% had histories of incarceration; and 31% were homeless at some point during their pregnancy.

While not a substance abuse treatment program, over 90% of the women significantly reduced substance use with 81% becoming abstinent. 95% of women maintained custody of their infants at ten weeks and the repeat pregnancy rate was very low.

The Path Clinic's harm reduction approach has achieved exceptional success in not only helping women and their babies, but also in saving the cost of expensive medical treatment both for the women and their babies. **Preventing one low weight birth will save over \$200,000 in medical care – the cost of running the Path Clinic for an entire year.**

On behalf of mothers and babies in Hawaii, we strongly urge you to pass HB129, HD2, SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.



WOMEN'S CAUCUS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus 1050 Ala Moana Blvd #D-26, Honolulu, HI 96814 Email: hidemocraticwomenscaucus@yahoo.com

April 1, 2011

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Amy Monk, Legislative Committee

Re: HB 129 HD 2 SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care
Hearing: Friday, April 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing me to present testimony today, in strong support of HB 129 HD2 SD1 which provides funds for the PATH Clinic. The clinic provides perinatal care and social services to women who have a history of substance use. The goals of the clinic are to provide care so that women give birth to healthy babies they are capable of parenting.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus strongly supports this measure which provides care that this population of women may not be able to find elsewhere. The clinic expects to care for over 60 women with addictions in 2011. Since its inception, the clinic has cared for over 180 women.

This clinic provides a successful and effective public health approach to the issue of pregnant women with addictions. Women are provided with care in a small, dedicated and non-judgmental setting which supports them in decreasing their substance use and helps them deliver healthy babies. It is the unique integration of prenatal, clinical, and social services that results in a cessation of substance use in most women. Some women recognize that they require residential substance abuse treatment and the clinic staff facilitates their admission into an appropriate program.

This is the type of program that should be encouraged. It reduces the harms of substance use, it has successful outcomes, and is cost-effective. In the long run, it saves taxpayer money. We urge the committee to pass the measure.



1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • www.pphi.org • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

March 29, 2011

Testimony in Support: HB 129 HD2 SD1

To: Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 129 HD2 SD1, Relating to Perinatal Care

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports HB 129 HD2 SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care. This bill allows for an appropriation for the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii Clinic (The PATH Clinic). We understand that The PATH Clinic, like too many other non-profit organizations in Hawaii, has suffered during this economic crisis. The appropriation provided in HB 129 HD2 SD1 will help the organization continue to provide outstanding care to our community.

Among the goals of The PATH Clinic is facilitating the transition of isolated substance-using pregnant women to coping, capable parents linked to community resources, increasing knowledge, access, and readiness to accept long-term birth control among women who struggle with substance abuse issues, and keeping families together and preventing outplacement.

The care that The PATH Clinic provides to the women they serve assists them to not only become and stay healthy during pregnancy, but enables them to build a safe and loving life for their children. The work done at The PATH Clinic is unthinkable difficult and yet their success rate is phenomenal. According to their Pilot Program, at least 80% of the women served stopped using substances altogether and over 90% significantly decreased substance use within 8 weeks of engaging in PATH services. At the time of giving birth, 94% of the women tested clean of substances. Of the few that did test positive, over half agreed to enter a residential treatment program.

The children served by The PATH Clinic similarly did well. While the women who received prenatal services were at very high risks for preterm birth and low birth weight births (a 4-5 fold risk), their birth outcomes were consistent with state and national averages for all births. The children were also more likely to stay with their mothers- 96% of the women maintained custody of their infants 8 weeks after delivery. At PPHI, we believe in providing people with the best possible care and resources they need to make healthy decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives. We also believe that children flourish best in families and communities where they are nurtured, honored, and loved. Based on their goals and the tremendous success of their work, we consider The PATH Clinic an invaluable provider of reproductive health care and social services.

The original version of HB129 called for an appropriation of \$200,000. Recent drafts have left the amount unspecified. PPHI respectfully asks that the Committee pass HB 129 HD2 SD1 and re-insert the \$200,000 appropriation so that the much needed services of The PATH Clinic can continue. Thank you.

Honolulu Health Center
1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-589-1149

Kailua Kona Health Center
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

Kahului (Maui) Health Center
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176
(A Maui United Way Agency)



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawai'i

April 1, 2011

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: HB 129 HD2 SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care
Hearing: April 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Conf. Room 211

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of this measure.

This measure requests funds for the Path clinic, a program originally established in 2006 to provide perinatal services to women with substance-use issues. The clinic has been extremely successful, reducing the risk of low-birth weight infants to women who have high-risk pregnancies because of their histories of drug usage.

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. In addition, the care of just one extremely low-birth weight infant for the first year of its life averages \$200,000.

The clinic's programs provide both 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 has also been successful in enabling its patients to become successful parents, encouraging families to stay together and to avoid foster care and child protective services systems.

Please pass this bill and provide funding for this worthwhile and effective program. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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P.O. Box 241042
Honolulu, HI 96824-1042

Phone: (808)-988-4386
Fax: (808) 373-7064

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

A the Drug Policy *Action* Group

A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
PO Box 61233, Honolulu, HI 96839 ~ (808) 988-4386

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

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pamela Lichty, MPH
President

DATE: April 1, 2011, 9 a.m., room 211

RE: Hb129, SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care– **IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Senators Ige, Kidani, and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm testifying on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group. We are in strong support of this measure. I'm also proud to serve on the Advisory Committee for the PATH Clinic.

The clinic, Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawai'i (located on the Kaimuki campus of the Salvation Army), has proven to be both a compassionate and highly cost-effective way of dealing with the needs of substance using pregnant women and their babies.

The PATH clinic provides one-stop integrated care to their patients in which prenatal care is provided together with other needs such as physical and mental health services and access to social services. This holistic approach represents a very smart strategy for both the near and long term and we are proud that Hawaii's legislature has funded this innovative program. You can read in the measure itself about the impressive results that the supportive holistic approach of the clinic have achieved.

The uniqueness of the clinic is in part due to the social services that surround their clients – in addition to the superb medical care they receive. Yet it has proven far more difficult for the clinic to find funding for these ancillary services. This measure will help to underwrite those important services

We urge the Committee to pass out this important measure. Thank you for hearing this bill and for permitting us to testify today.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817

Phone/E-mail: (808) 533-3454/ kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Sen. David Ige, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, April 1, 2011

Room 211

9:00 a.m.

HB 129 HD2, SD1 - PATH CLINIC

STRONG SUPPORT

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Aloha Chairs Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on prison reform and justice issues in Hawai`i for more than a decade. We respectfully offer our testimony always being mindful that Hawai`i has some 6,000 people behind bars with almost 1,800 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, their ancestral lands.

HB 129 HD2, SD1 appropriates funds for the continued operation of the PATH Clinic and the services it provides.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. PATH is a comprehensive perinatal addiction clinic that integrates prenatal/postpartum obstetric clinical services.

But that's not all. PATH offers non-judgmental, compassionate and professional services to the women who access their services. And they serve the most difficult population of pregnant women - those who are using drugs. Many of these women are afraid to access care for fear of losing their children and/or unborn child. PATH's caring and nurturing environment has produced some spectacular outcomes.

The PATH Clinic has truly been a shining star in Hawai`i's healthcare spectrum. Through the incredible work of Dr. Tricia Wright, the PATH Clinic was established by the Legislature in 2006 as a three year pilot project to respond to the high rate of methamphetamine use by pregnant women.

Community Alliance on Prisons has been working for almost 15 years to build strong, healthy and safe communities by employing data-driven solutions to social problems. PATH is a smart strategy that is working to accomplish this goal.

Among the goals of the program are that healthy babies be born and that the women are able to care for the babies. Whether a baby is healthy is determined by length of the pregnancy (e.g., do the women make it to full term) and by birth weight. This can be hard to achieve with the population served by the Path Clinic, many of whom are addicted to methamphetamine.

The clinic is doing just as well as private practice when it comes to birth weight. Since the clinic opened in 2007, 61 of 65 deliveries were full-term and the clinic's pre-term birthrate (6.2%) is much better than the national average of 12.7% and 12.2% for Hawai'i. Low birth weights are also about half of the national percentage.

The cost of 50 births was about \$250,000 per year at the clinic - premature babies cost ten times as much. However, since the majority of these women deliver at full-term and have normal weight babies, the program is able save approximately \$550,000 per year. Thus, this is a cost effective clinic and program. Additionally, most of the women (61 out of 65) tested clean at the time of delivery.

Women who receive prenatal care to address their addictions in a small, dedicated, non-judgmental setting that also provides social service support, parenting education, and transportation are overwhelmingly likely to stop using drugs, deliver healthy infants, maintain custody, choose a long term birth control method, and choose to work/develop work skills six months after delivery.

Some other outcomes...

- At least 80% of women became abstinent
- Over 90% significantly decreased substance use within 8 weeks of engaging in PATH's services
- 94% tested clean of substances at the time of birth
- Over half of the women who tested positive for drug use at birth chose to enter residential substance abuse treatment, often noting that their experience at PATH contributed to their readiness to accept treatment.
- 96% maintained custody of their infants 8 weeks after delivery (57% had lost custody of at least one previous child).

PATH proves that providing appropriate parenting education and other social services to enable mothers to successfully parent their children affect repeat pregnancy rates.

Hawai'i should be touting the success of this very important and specialized area. We must support programs and strategies that are evidence-based and successful. PATH saves money and lives and gets us on the road to building strong and healthy communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for this terrific program

Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: Friday, April 1st
9am, Conference Room 211
Testimony: Support of HB129
Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Senator David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani,

I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 129 as the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii Clinic social worker.

As the bill states, The Path Clinic targets a hard to reach and often over looked population by providing comprehensive perinatal clinical and social services that no other agency on Oahu provides. The Path Clinic outcomes are outstanding and have remained that way since the Clinic opened.

As The Path Clinic social worker, I work with our women and children on a daily basis and witness first hand the determination, resiliency and motivation that these women have to become the healthy, stable, loving, capable mothers that they want to be. I am often told by clients that if it weren't for the non-judgmental and supportive environment of The Path Clinic, they would not have received prenatal care, due to a fear of judgment and bias by care providers.

Without funding from the state, The Path Clinic is not sustainable and will be unable to effectively reach this highly underserved population, which is an injustice to the people of Hawaii.

Attached are written testimony from Path Clinic clients who are eager to share their experiences in support of The Path Clinic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Dorr, MSW
The Path Clinic social worker

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Kristy and I have been a patient at the Path Clinic since June 2010. I started coming to the Path Clinic because I got referred by one of the doctors at Kapiolani's outpatient clinic, when I openly admitted to her of my history of drug use. She told me of the services that were offered so I felt that the Path Clinic was the place I wanted to be.

Since I started coming to the Path Clinic, I have quit using drugs, cut back on my smoking of cigarettes, learned about childbirth, breastfeeding, etc, and had my daughter (January 21, 2011). The Path Clinic has helped me with so much with my recovery. I attend classes 3-4 days a week, these classes help keep me busy and reduce my urges to use again.

In the end I feel it is important for the Path clinic to be here because they are a great support system for women like me. Everything here is done without judgment and that has been the biggest help for me with my recovery. I feel that my success with my recovery and birth is because of all that was done for me here at the Path Clinic. I love everyone here and tell everyone about my experiences.

Sincerely,

Kristy

Aloha,

My name is Michelle, I come to The Path Clinic because the staff and my doctor explain everything to me, where I can understand everything about my condition, they also support me in different classes about my child's development and my newborn baby, they are also very confidential and I feel safe here. The staff is very understanding. They help me with my parenting skills. The Path Clinic has helped me with coping with my past addiction and help me with relapse prevention, they also give me the best medical treatment. Path Clinic should be here and get long term funding from the state because they are here to help women with addiction to help get their unborn child the right prenatal care, so their baby can be healthy without someone asking them uncomfortable questions, to where they don't take care of their babies.

Thank you for your consideration and supporting the Path Clinic.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Hello,

My name is Rebecca, and I have been a client at the Path Clinic for the past 7 months. I was referred by my ObGyn for my use of cigarettes as it causes a high health risk for my unborn child. The Path Clinic offers excellent smoking cessation classes, counseling, and resources, as well as Stay quit classes for those who have already quit. Through their programs I have successfully cut down by 1/3 the amount I was smoking and will continue to work with them until I am 100% smoke free.

In addition to smoking cessation the Path Clinic offers all sorts of classes from parenting; preparation, coping and discipline, to breastfeeding, as well as staying clean and keeping healthy habits. The Path Clinic also provides transportation to and from classes and prenatal/postnatal appointments, without which I wouldn't have been able to get the care that I needed for my baby during my pregnancy.

Another great benefit of being a patient at the Path Clinic and probably the most important to myself is that they provide child care for my children while I attend much needed classes and doctors appointments. At the Path Clinic we are not treated like patients but like family. The Path Clinic has been a wonderful part of my pregnancy and helped to prepare me for the challenges of life. Thank you.

Rebecca

To whom it may concern,

The Path clinic has helped me in so many ways during and after my pregnancy. Even though I only had 2 appointments before I gave birth they gave me a lot of support and never did judge me. They made me feel comfortable and welcome to the clinic. Just to know that there are people out there that do care and support me in so many ways gives me hope and strength that I can do right for my family. I attend classes on Monday and Wednesday and by coming here I already learned so much that I never knew, about myself and my baby. They have helped me be a better mom for my two girls and showed/gave me the little push I needed to go in the right direction. They offer so many things and help for the women here that have different problems, but they go the distance for all of us because they all want us to better ourselves not just as a mom, but as women too. Also by coming here I hear other women's stories and know that I'm not the only one and just to talk to them helps me as a person in so many ways, because I know I have support from them and they know I support them too. If path wasn't here I don't think I'd be heading in the right direction or trying to better myself for my girls. I'm so thankful that there is a place for women to go to that need help with many things. I'm so thankful for all the love and support from the clinic.

Mapu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:08 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jm2day@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB129 on 4/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/1/2011 9:00:00 AM HB129

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jolene Molinaro
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jm2day@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I strongly support HB129 for the PATH clinic to continue offering perinatal care services.
This is vitally important to the community it serves.