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March 27, 2011

Committee on Health
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Hearing:

March 29, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 329

RE: HCR209 / HR180 – RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee on Health: On behalf of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony and comments in strong support of resolutions HCR209 and HR180, which recognizes October as Women's Health Month

For over 60 years, the American Cancer Society in Hawaii has been leading the fight against cancer in Hawaii. Over the last few decades we have made much progress in saving lives through early detection and new cutting edge treatments, and supporting initiatives that encourage raising our consciousness regarding various types of cancers, including tobacco related cancers including lung cancer which is the number one cause of death for women in Hawaii. Our cervical cancer death rate is very low at 2 per, 100,000.

We strongly believe that much more need to be done to raise awareness with respect to women and cancer in Hawaii. Many studies have shown that community education, training, and public awareness campaigns work and are effective in reducing the incidents of chronic disease.

In moving forward, the American Cancer Society would welcome the opportunity to offer our expertise and resources in collaboration with other organizations in supporting community events that raise women's awareness regarding chronic health issues and cancer.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in strong support of these resolutions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale".

George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



DATE: March 28, 2011

TO: Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

HEARING: Tuesday, March 29, 2011
9:00 p.m., Room 329

RE: HCR 209 and HR 186 - Recognizing October as Women's Health Month

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and the members of the Committee on Health: 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 today in strong support of HCR 209 and HR 186 which recognizes October as Women's Health Month.**

Women are the foundation of families and that is especially true here in Hawaii. Women are the strength and the cord that bind the ohana. Many times women are also the only provider for their family. One of the primary roles that women play in society is that of "mother." Women conceive, carry and give birth to babies. This is a vital role in which health is a critical component.

Emphasizing the importance of healthy lifestyle choices, such as prenatal care and the reduction of drinking and smoking, decreases rates and costs associated with adverse birth outcomes, and promotes healthy lifestyle behaviors across women's life span.

However, women experience significant disparities in healthcare that place their infant and families at increased risks for poor outcomes. Disparities including socio-economic conditions, access to healthcare, insurance status, and the availability of services and providers, to name just a few.

HCR 209 and HR 186 will increase public awareness and help reduce these disparities confronting women, empower women to advocate and overcome these barriers, and improve their physical and emotional well-being. For these reasons, we urge you to pass these resolutions.

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to offer testimony today.