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March 28, 2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support: HCR 209/ HR 180

To: Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and Members of the House Committee on Health
From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Re: Testimony in Support of HCR 209/ HR 180 Recognizing October as Women's Health Month

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports HCR 209 and HR 180, recognizing October as Women's Health Month. At PPHI, we strongly believe that all people deserve access to quality health care and the information and resources they need to make healthy decisions. We believe in empowering and trusting women to make sound decisions about their health.

Unfortunately, we know that many women lack access to affordable and high quality health care. The importance of preventative health care and regular check-ups for women cannot be overstated. Helping women know where they can access care is equally important. PPHI is just one of several community health care providers that can provide annual exams and screenings to most low income, uninsured and underinsured women at no cost or at low cost. We provide women with annual gynecological exams, life saving cancer screenings, pregnancy testing, testing for sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, offer vaccinations for HPV, mid-life services, counseling and hormone therapy, as well as comprehensive family planning services.

As we consider the state legislature an important partner in making sure the health care needs of women are served, we are happy to support HCR 209 and HR 180. We thank the committee for hearing these resolutions and urge it to pass them. Mahalo.

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