



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

S.B. 222, Relating to Perinatal Care

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health**

January 28, 2011

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this bill to appropriate
2 funding for continued operations of the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii (PATH) program and
3 clinic.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** We support the intent but defer on the fiscal implications until the Executive
5 Budget has been finalized. The fiscal costs for implementing this program do not outweigh the short
6 and long term health care costs if the PATH program and clinic were to close.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** To appropriate monies for the continued operation of the PATH program
8 and clinic. Funding would be used to support difficult to reach pregnant women, decrease their
9 substance use, and assist them in delivering a healthy infant they are then able to parent. It is known that
10 modifiable risk factors associated with substances such as cigarettes and alcohol use can result in
11 physical, mental, behavioral or learning disabilities and longer term implications for a child's well-
12 being.

13 The PATH provides a unique and needed resource in our State as a comprehensive perinatal
14 addiction clinic that integrates prenatal and postpartum obstetric clinical services, addiction medical
15 services, and social services. The PATH has shown, during its three year project, that it has been highly
16 successful in assisting its patients in discontinuing use of drugs and delivering healthy infants,

1 continuing to maintain child custody, using birth spacing and longer term methods to prevent an
2 unintended pregnancy, and planning for their current or future employment including work skill
3 development. Based on this information, the Maternal and Child Health Branch had awarded the PATH
4 Clinic funding to implement its services with new contracts to have begun July 1, 2009. However,
5 based on funding restrictions, this entire program was eliminated.

6 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ACOG
THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

January 28, 2011
Friday
2:45 PM
Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, MD, Chair
Senator Clarence K Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Raydeen Busse, MD, Chair
Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, Vice Chair
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section

Re: SB 222: RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE, APPROPRIATES MONEYS FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE PERINATAL ADDICTION TREATMENT OF HAWAII PROGRAM AND CLINIC.

Dear Chairman Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and Health Committee Members:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Hawaii Section, supports SB 222 appropriating monies for the continued operation of the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii (PATH) Clinic. ACOG strongly encourages support and treatment for addicted pregnant and postpartum mothers.

Addiction is a chronic, relapsing biological and behavioral disorder with genetic components. The disease of substance addiction is subject to medical and behavioral management. Studies indicate that prenatal care greatly reduces the negative effects of substance abuse during pregnancy, including decreased risks of low birth weight and prematurity. As of 2010, only 19 states had drug treatment programs for pregnant women, and only nine gave priority access to pregnant women (Guttmacher Institute. Substance abuse during pregnancy, State Policies in Brief. New York (NY): GI; 2010. Available at: http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_SADP.pdf. January 1, 2011). Hawaii's PATH Clinic provides prenatal care in a supportive setting towards delivering drug-free infants and encouraging addiction treatment for mothers. The PATH Clinic's results as indicated in the text of the bill, are very encouraging and support the continued funding of this important clinic.

Hawaii ACOG strongly supports SB 222. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



green1 - Karen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 11:24 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: artingal@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB222 on 1/28/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 1/28/2011 2:45:00 PM SB222

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacqueline K Tellei
Organization: Path Clinic
Address: 3662 Alani Drive Honolulu, Hi
Phone: 808-223-6789
E-mail: artingal@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

Comments:

As a Family Advocate who works part time at the Path Clinic, I have seen many women whose lives are positively effected by the services that Path clinic has for them. Many have either reduced or completely quit their substance use, receive crucial prenatal and postnatal care, and have delivered healthy babies that they do keep custody of. These women attribute these positive changes to the non judgmental, always readily available support/services that they receive at Path Clinic. This is why I strongly support keeping Path Clinic ALIVE.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

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



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Friday, January 28, 2010

2:45 PM

Room 229

SB 222 - RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE

STRONG SUPPORT

HTHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for our incarcerated individuals, enhance the quality of justice, and promote public safety by supporting smart justice policies. We come today to speak for the 6,000+ individuals whose voices have been silenced by incarceration, always mindful that almost 2,000 of those individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones.

SB 222 appropriates moneys for the continued operation of the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawai'i program and clinic.

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.

The PATH Clinic has truly been a shining star in Hawai'i's healthcare spectrum. Through the incredible work of Dr. Tricia Wright, it 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. There are many reasons why drug-addicted women don't seek pre-natal care, among which is the threat of losing their newborns and other children.

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 provided 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.

At least 80% of women became abstinent and over 90% significantly decreased substance use within 8 weeks of engaging in Path 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 our success in this very important and specialized area.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to support this measure and we hope that PATH's success can be continued with funding from the Legislature. Even in tough financial times, we must look to programs and strategies that are evidence-based and successful and adequately fund them. PATH saves money and lives and gets us on the road to building strong and healthy communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana`o.

To: Honorable Josh Green
Honorable Clarence Nishihara

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

Re: In strong support of
SB222

Hearing: Friday January 28, 2011
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for SB222: *Appropriates moneys 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 Health to join us in helping to improve the health of all babies.

Action the Drug Policy 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: House Committee on Health

FROM: Pamela Lichy, MPH
President

DATE: January 28, 2011

RE: HB 129 RELATING TO PERINATAL HEALTH

Aloha Representative Yamane and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichy and I'm testifying on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group.

As an organization devoted to encouraging public health approaches to drug control policy, DPAG strongly endorses the highly successful approach used by the PATH Clinic.

Their goals are laudable and more importantly their humane, holistic approach to treating pregnant substance using women has yielded outcomes that are truly impressive.

We urge this committee to pass on this funding measure with a strong recommendation.

Thank you for hearing this measure and we urge you to pass it out with a strong recommendation to Finance. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha mai Committee Members:

I am writing to urge the Committee to support SB222 (2011). One of the main concerns of my research is the issue of maternal addiction, particularly the many women who are involved in the criminal justice system. (I am a sociologist at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.) I have been acquainted with the PATH Clinic for several years and have become familiar with their excellent outcomes. It is essential that women who use drugs during pregnancy have access to quality pre- and post-natal care. My many conversations with such women indicate that they will often try to stay under the radar—avoiding doctors and even giving birth on their own because they fear losing their children or coming to the attention of the police. Needless to say, this has catastrophic effects on maternal and child health.

The approach of the PATH Clinic is to meet the women where they are—literally as well as figuratively. They will go above and beyond to get women to the Clinic for their first meeting. Their results speak for themselves in terms of infant indicators like birth weight and near-term births. The majority of women are abstinent at the time of delivery and most women will go on to keep their children and continue to do well.

PATH uses a holistic approach to reproductive health and effectively connects women to substance abuse treatment and other needed services. Their services are culturally appropriate and gender responsive. The professionals at PATH understand the precursors of women's drug use and involvement with the justice system. Gender violence, poverty, mental health problems, and lack of opportunity all play a role in the complex issue of maternal addiction. The research shows us that once women engage in treatment, they are motivated to have a healthy pregnancy. With the right support, their motivation can be built upon to make real breakthroughs. PATH effectively helps women deal with their addiction and provides the services they need to have a good pregnancy outcome. More than that, PATH's patients discover their own strengths and access their own empowerment as a result of the respect and caring that characterize the Clinic's approach.

The war on drugs approach to maternal addiction is ill-founded. The PATH approach works. The modest allocation requested by this bill will be multiplied many times over in returns in good maternal and child health in this vulnerable population. My hope is that there will be a PATH Clinic in each county eventually. They are an excellent model and an important aspect of the continuum of effective child and maternal health services in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Marilyn Brown, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
o f h a w a i ' i

January 28, 2011

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Health

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB 222 Relating to Perinatal Care
Hearing: Friday, January 28, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Conf. Room 229

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishimura and Members of the Committee, I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii testifying today in strong support of SB 222.

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



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

January 28, 2011

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Health

From: Amy Monk, Women's Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Re: SB 222 Relating to Perinatal Care
Hearing: Friday, January 28, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing me to present testimony today, in strong support of SB 222 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.

Senate Committee on Health
Hearing: Friday, January 28th
2:45pm, Conference Room 229
Testimony: Support of SB222
Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee on Health,

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 222 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.

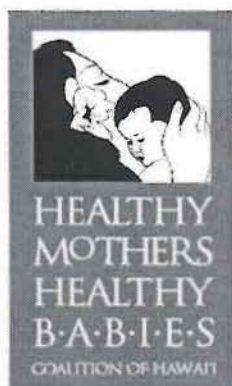
As The Path Clinic social worker, I work with our women and children on a daily basis and witness first hand the determination, resiliency and motivation that these women have to become the healthy, stable, loving, capable mothers that they want to be. I am often told by clients that if it weren't for 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



January 19, 2011

TO: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

RE: **SB 222 Relating to Perinatal Care**

Hearing: Friday, January 28, 2011 at 2:45pm

Honorable Chairperson Green, Vice Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Health

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 222 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 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). The pilot results far exceeded expectation. The population of women served are known to have a 4-5 times greater risk for costly preterm and low birth weight deliveries. The preterm and low birth weight rates for the 120 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% significantly reduced substance use with 81% becoming abstinent. 95% of women maintained custody of their infants at 10 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.

We urge you support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

845 22nd Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Phone # (808) 737-5805

E-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org



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

January 27, 2011

Testimony in Support: SB 222

To: Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health
From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 222, Relating to Perinatal Care

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports SB 222 Relating to Perinatal Care. This bill allows for an appropriation of \$200,000 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 SB 222 will help the organization to continue to provide outstanding care to our community.

Among the goals of The PATH Clinic are 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.

PPHI respectfully asks that the Committee pass SB 222 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)

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

green1 - Karen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 2:04 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: constance.j.conover@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB222 on 1/28/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 1/28/2011 2:45:00 PM SB222

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Connie Conover
Organization: Individual
Address: 3318 Anoaia Place Honolulu, HI
Phone: 223-4856
E-mail: constance.j.conover@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

Comments:

I am a certified nurse midwife that cares the woman currently at Kaiser Waipio Clinic, and before that at Kalihi Palama Health Center for 11 years.

I completely support the continued funding for the PATH clinic. I have referred several woman to PATH who were using drugs during their pregnancy. PATH supported theses women completely leading to good outcomes for mom and babies. Amazing! Please do not let this vital clinic which helps some of the most fragile pregnant women, close their doors - it would be our loss as a state!

Connie Conover CNM
Certified Nurse Midwife

Testimony
By Ted Sakai
Senate Bill 222, Relating to Perinatal Care
Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Friday, January 28, 2011, 2:45 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Senator Green, Senator Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Health:

I strongly support SB 222, Relating to Perinatal Care, and urge its passage. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the PATH Clinic. I receive no remuneration of any kind for this service. I do this because I believe in what PATH is doing, and I believe in its efficacy.

The need for and the documented accomplishments of the PATH Clinic are fully described in this bill. I would like to provide you with a different perspective on the importance of the PATH Clinic to our community.

I am a corrections professional who retired in 2005 after 26 years with the Department of Public Safety. Among other positions, I served as the Director of Public Safety (PSD) from December 1998 to December 2002; as a prison Warden, and as the head of correctional programs, including substance abuse treatment. During the time I was with PSD, I watched the inmate population grow almost five-fold, with the population of women inmates growing at even faster rate. This growth was accompanied by a concomitant increase in expenditures for jails and prisons. This growth, including the growth in dollars, was fueled by drug abuse.

I recall being discouraged as I watched as second and third generation offenders (those whose parents had also served prison time) entered and re-entered the system. And I recall the dismay when I learned of offenders who had been born addicted, because their mothers had been using drugs during pregnancy. These experiences convinced me of the vital importance of program, like PATH. Every child born of a mother who was served by PAT was in clear danger of becoming a drug addict, and eventually, an inmate in our system. Because of PATH, these children now have a real chance to have a normal life. This is prevention at its best – and at its earliest.

Our community needs the PATH clinic. PATH deserves your support. Please pass SB 222.

Ted I. Sakai and Associates
47-571 Ahuimanu Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Ph: 808-722-3111 e-mail: sakait005@hawaii.rr.com