



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Finance**

**H.B. 129, H.D. 1, Relating to Perinatal Care**

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

**March 1, 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:** The fiscal costs for implementing this program do not outweigh the short and long  
5 term health care costs if the PATH program and clinic were to close.

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

12 The PATH program provides a unique and needed resource in our State as a comprehensive  
13 perinatal addiction clinic that integrates prenatal and postpartum obstetric clinical services, addiction  
14 medical services, and social services. The PATH program has shown, during its three year  
15 demonstration period, that it has been highly successful in assisting its patients in discontinuing use of  
16 drugs and delivering healthy infants, continuing to maintain child custody, using birth spacing and

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

5 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

**The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus  
1050 Ala Moana Blvd # 2660 ~ Honolulu, HI 96814-4933**

Re: HB 129 HD 1 Relating to Perinatal Care  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room 308  
Testimony in Strong Support

The Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii is proud to stand with its allies, the Hawaii Women's Caucus and the Women's Coalition in support of HB 129 HD 1.

We support funding of PATH that serves pregnant women who have a history of substance use.

The clinic is requesting ONLY \$200,000 per year.

The clinic is cost effective, because the average cost of medical care for ONE very low weight infant in its first year of life is over \$200,000.

Women who received prenatal services at PATH were 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 eighty percent (80+%) of the women stopped using drugs. Ninety-four percent (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.

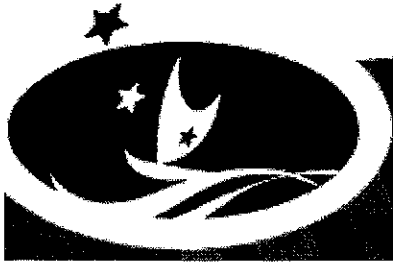
Ninety-six percent (96%) of the women maintained custody of their infants 8 weeks after delivery, which is very encouraging since fifty-seven percent (57%) had lost custody of at least one previous child. Fifty percent (50%) of the women who lost custody of their infants were pregnant again within 9 months of having given birth.

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

Very truly yours,

*Lo-Ann M. Adams*

Chair, Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawaii



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

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

March 1, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Amy Monk, Legislative Committee

Re: HB 129 HD 1 Relating to Perinatal Care  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing me to present testimony today, in strong support of HB 129 HD1 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.

# *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 Finance

FROM: Pamela Lichty, MPH  
President

DATE: March 1, 2011, 4 p.m., room 308

RE: H.B. 129, H.D. 1 RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE – **IN STRONG  
SUPPORT**

Aloha Representatives Oshiro, Lee and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm testifying in support of this measure on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group. 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 serve to underwrite those important services

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



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

February 28, 2011

Testimony in **support** of HB 129

House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Tuesday March 1, 2011  
4:00 P.M.  
Room 308  
State Capitol

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii support funding for the PATH clinic.

The statistics show and there is compelling evidence that this program allows a women with child to be successful in delivering a substance free infant, as well as maintaining sobriety for a significant period of time, allowing her to be a substance free parent.

The \$20,000 they need to operate is money well spent, avoiding later costs of poor health to the child, but also lowering life long impairment that results when an infant is born to a mother abusing/using substances to include alcohol.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 129

Joy A Marshall, R. N.  
Chair, Health Care Reform  
League of Women Voters-Hawaii



DATE: February 27, 2011

TO: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011

RE: **HB 129, HD1 Relating to Perinatal Care**

### **Testimony in Strong Support**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee on Finance

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 HB 129, HD1 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 three years ago, the pilot results have far exceeded expectation. 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 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% of the women 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 strongly urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

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Phone # (808) 737-5805

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1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • [www.pphi.org](http://www.pphi.org) • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

February 28, 2011

**Testimony in Support: HB 129**

**To:** Chair Marcus Oshior, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and Members of the House Committee on Finance  
**From:** Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
**Re:** Testimony in Support of HB 129, Relating to Perinatal Care

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports HB 129 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 HB 129 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.

PPHI respectfully asks that the Committee pass HB 129 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 hawaii

March 1, 2011

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: HB 129 HD1 Relating to Perinatal Care  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Conf. Room 308

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.

**Board of Directors**

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# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2010

4:00 PM

Room 308

**HB 129 HD1 - RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE**

**STRONG SUPPORT**

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

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 129 HD1 appropriates funds 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 their 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, nonjudgmental 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.

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.

March of Dimes Foundation

To: Honorable Marcus Oshiro  
Honorable Marilyn Lee

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](http://marchofdimes.com/hawaii)

Re: In strong support of  
**HB129 HD1**

Hearing: Tuesday March 1, 2011  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for HB129 HD1: *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 Health to join us in helping to improve the health of all babies.

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.....  
march  of dimes® .....

ATTN: **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

DATE: Tuesday, March 01, 2011  
TIME: 4:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 308

**HB129 HD1 - RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE  
STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Finance Committee:

I am Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Women's Coalition.

PATH is a comprehensive perinatal clinic that treats pregnant addicted women. Continued funding for this highly successful clinic is one of our top legislative priorities for 2011.

**The requested \$200,000 is necessary to keep its doors open. To emphasize – this is a life or death need for the clinic and this is a program we cannot afford to lose with the ongoing rise of addiction among women and men in these islands.**

In these austere times the clinic represents a leveraged investment with a large payoff in health care savings and in public safety savings. Take for example, the large cost-savings to the taxpayer of infants who are not born to untreated addicted women. These innocents have a host of costly long-term health care problems. The average cost of first year health care for low birth weight babies (one of the sad results of drug use during pregnancy) is over \$200,000 on average. If only one baby saved this fate, the program pays for itself.

If these same women were to be incarcerated as a result of drug use, they would cost the taxpayer dearly and their child would become a ward of the state. You can imagine the positive result of a mother who not only gives birth to a healthy baby, but who also, as a by-product, becomes a clean and sober contributing member of our Island Ohana.

The Coalition supported the landmark legislation that established the clinic in 2006 as a three-year pilot project in response to the high rate of methamphetamine use by pregnant women.

Since that time the Path Clinic has been incredibly successful in achieving positive outcomes both for the women it treats and for their babies. Its gentle, nonjudgmental approach has had the following results.

- **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).
- Women who received prenatal care through this unique clinic were 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.

We are pleased and heartened with these high success rates that are very rare in the field of addiction counseling and treatment.

We urge you to pass this bill out of committee. We can't afford to loose this program.

Regards,

in S. Freed  
Co-Chair Women's Coalition  
Mililani, HI 96789

808-623-5676

House Committee on Finance  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1st  
4pm, Conference Room 308  
Testimony: Support of HB129  
Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Health,

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

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

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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



February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair; Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair;  
and Committee on Finance Representatives

Re: Strong Support of HB 129

Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support of HB 129 to fund Path, a perinatal addiction clinic in Kaimuki which serves women from all areas of Oahu.

Providing effective support to pregnant women who struggle with alcohol and substance use is not just compassionate – it is cost-effective, both short and long term.

The Path Clinic has demonstrated that this model works in improving the health of infants and in changing the trajectory of women's lives so that they can capably parent their children. When most pregnant women who use substances are effectively supported, they are very likely to achieve their goals of delivering healthy infants that they are able to keep and parent. The women who receive Path services that maintain custody of their infants (95%) have a very low repeat pregnancy rate (lower than national average). The women that lose custody of their infants have an extremely high repeat pregnancy rate at 9 months after delivery (60%). **When a pregnant woman who is using substances receives services at Path, everyone wins – infants, women, families, the Departments of Human Services, Public Safety, Health and Education!**

The Path Clinic effectively addresses a complex problem in a manner that saves dollars and also invests in women, families and community. It needs funding this year to provide services to the increasing number of women who are seeking its services.

Sincerely,

Renee Schuetter, RN, M.Ed.  
Executive Director  
The Path Clinic

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Tricia Wright, MD MS FACOG, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health, University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Medical Director Path Clinic. Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Addiction Medicine

Re: In strong support of House Bill 129 Relating to Perinatal Care \*

Dear Mr. Oshiro, Ms. Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge support for the passage of this bill. The Path clinic was established in 2007 through Acts 248 and 147. Since that time, we have seen almost 200 women, and helped over 120 women have healthy babies. The clinic is very cost effective; the cost of the clinic is \$200,000/year, less than the cost of one premature baby in the first year of life. Our preterm birth rate is less than or equal to the state and national averages of 12%. Women who obtain clinic services would otherwise be expected to have a preterm birth rate of 18-25%. In the three years of operation, we have saved the state approximately \$208,000 in the cost of caring for preterm births in the first year of life alone\*\*. This is not including the savings from child welfare, as 96% of our women maintain custody at 8 weeks, whereas 57% of the women lost custody of a previous child. Women overwhelmingly decrease use of substances, and the majority become abstinent. They go on to parent their children, use long-term contraception and become productive members of society. I believe this is a small investment that leads to long-term rewards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

\* This is not an official position of the University of Hawaii.

\*\* (120 women X 0.18)-(120 women X 0.12) x \$32,000/baby

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2010

4:00 PM

Room 308

**HB 129 HD1 - RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE  
STRONG SUPPORT**

**Methamphetamine (ice) addiction costs Hawai`i over \$400 million per year. The most cost effective way to ameliorate the devastation of this drug is through prevention, and through arresting the multigenerational cycle at the beginning of life. Perinatal care of drug addicted women will give innocent babies the chance for a normal life.**

**Please prioritize this program and pass HB 129.**

**Mahalo for considering my testimony.**

**Netra Halperin, M.A. (psychology)**

**Kihei, Hawai`i**

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 3:03 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** artingal@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB129 on 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM HB129

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jacqueline K. Tellei  
Organization: Path  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [artingal@gmail.com](mailto:artingal@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

### 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 completelu 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 support/services that they receive at Path Clinic. This is why I strongly support keeping Path clinic ALIVE.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 3:34 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** chelseyk@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB129 on 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM HB129

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: chelsey Kakalia  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [chelseyk@hawaii.edu](mailto:chelseyk@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

**Comments:**

I have worked with the Path Clinic for the past month as an intern. Participating in a program, to help needed women and address a big concern in Hawai'i, has only increased my appreciation for the people that work & volunteer their time and efforts to help many women dealing with substance abuse, but overall, the children, our future. I have witnessed the joy and success of many women through coming to the Path Clinic, from classes, but ultimately, the support and trust offered here.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 4:12 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mom.fernandez@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB129 on 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM HB129

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Momi Fernandez  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [momi.fernandez@yahoo.com](mailto:momi.fernandez@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

### Comments:

As a private citizen of the State of Hawai'i, I support HB129 because it provides unique support services that are valuable to getting women and their babies on a health and wellness path. PATH Clinic has a garden (mala) that allows women to gather nutritious food, teaches women the benefit of accessing fresh food for themselves and their child(ren)/`ohana, allows them to begin a healing process with themselves and their families. PATH Clinic is outstanding and needs to continue its existence. Mahalo.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 3:11 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** theede@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB129 on 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM HB129

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Teri Heede  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [theede@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:theede@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

**Comments:**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members!

I strongly support this cost effective and much needed legislation.

Most women who went through the program had an outcome that proves they began embracing the life style changes that were introduced.

This a very complicated and difficult problem to address but PATH clinic is doing an outstanding job.

Please lend your support to this important legislation.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2011 5:40 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** netra@electnetra.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB129 on 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** HB129 finance.pages

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 4:00:00 PM HB129

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Netra Halperin, M.A.  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [netra@electnetra.com](mailto:netra@electnetra.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

Comments: