



HB 2865
Relating to Diabetes
House Committee on Health

February 10, 2010

10:00a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 2865, which would permanently establish the department of health's diabetes prevention and control program.

OHA's strategic priorities include Maui Ola (Health), which represents OHA's commitment to ensure the improvement of Native Hawaiians' quality of life and reduction in onset of chronic diseases. Obesity is a common condition of chronic diseases. Age, genetics, physiology and behaviors are also risk factors for diabetes. Of the four largest ethnic groups in Hawaii, (together - 82% of total population), Native Hawaiians, Japanese, and Filipinos have higher rates of diabetes than Whites. Native Hawaiians have the highest mortality rates due to diabetes.

Diabetes is a leading public health issue in Hawaii, but diabetes and its complications are preventable. The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program in the Hawaii State Department of Health provide the public health leadership for diabetes in the state. OHA and many other stakeholders were convened by the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program to develop and publish the Hawaii Diabetes Plan 2010.

The plan is a great battle plan that urges everyone to take action to prevent and manage this serious disease. We support the idea of a Diabetes Mellitus Registry's usefulness in this battle and the idea of coordinating and directing resources. Our specific interest is reducing disparate health conditions. OHA appreciates a unified systemic approach that targets underlying factors to affect change and promotes understanding of the importance of critical partners.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HB2865. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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

Testimony on HB 2865

Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference room 329

Honorable Chair Yamane and committee members,

Our (n) ative Hawaiian Organization is a grass root effort to address the condition of the (n) ative families, communities, and compact, with which we live to practice our inherent rights. Yet we have a history of maladies that pervades the wellness and longevity in life to enjoy our inherent privileges. Therefore we believe diabetes is our most prevelant demise for the health and welfare within our communities This disease does not discriminate a person's geneticist of ones race but our minority status seems to compliment this statistical mandate of high risk. We believe that any measure's dialogue to improve the health and welfare of all communities within this state is being socially responsible for the human condition on this planet.

We support this measure on its merits of humanity and compassion to our society. The Igbo culture of Nigeria has a familiar proverb "Oran a azu nwa" which means it takes a village/community to raise a child. This bill will be a god send for the communities in need. As Hawaiian proverb goes "E lawe I ke a'oa a malama ae 'oi mau ka na'auao" which means take what you learn and apply it and your wisdom will increase. With these proverbs as a learning base for our communities, together we can strive to a better healthy tomorrow in the middle of the pacific.

Finally we support the new diabetic program on making accessibility central and broad in scope in outreaches for the prevention and control of this debilitating disease.

Me ka Ha'aha'a
Samson and Bill Brown
Aupuni O Hawaii, Board Members

PERSONAL TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEBRUARY 10, 2012 AT 9:30 A.M.
HB 2865 – RELATING TO DIABETES
BY
JULIA M.K. ZEE

HB 2865 – RELATING TO DIABETES

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julia Zee, and I offer personal testimony in support of HB 2865. I am an Extension Educator and faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (and work in Hilo), and have conducted the Hawai'i Diabetes Detection and Prevention Project, an education research project, for the past 12 years. Diabetes is one of the most serious, common, and costly diseases in Hawai'i. Having diabetes puts a person at higher risk for other problems like heart disease, kidney damage, blindness, and amputations. But this does not have to happen—diabetes is preventable and controllable.

We provide educational sessions on diabetes management and screening to identify those at risk for diabetes. Over the years I have met many residents with diabetes and their family members. Taking control of diabetes is a daily struggle for most, whether it is having adequate and effective medical care and medication, access to educational programs on managing diabetes, or having enough healthy food to eat. And while there are many public and private diabetes programs across the State, diabetes continues to affect more and more people and families in Hawai'i.

Establishing a permanent Diabetes Prevention and Control Program in Hawai'i can enhance efforts across the State by coordinating with and advocating for programs and agencies working to prevent diabetes and help those already diagnosed. We all need to continue to increase awareness of the risk factors of diabetes and diabetes-related complications, which can be prevented or delayed, as well as continue to promote healthy eating and behaviors for all Hawai'i families.

Thank you.

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