



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Health**

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2320, HD 1**

**Relating to Health**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**March 17, 2014, 1:45 pm, Room 229**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 2320, HD1, establishing health equity as a goal of the Department of Health.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

An extension of the social determinants is the need for the various entities that embody them to embrace and support health equity. For that reason, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 17, 2014

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To: Senate Committee on Health  
Re: HB 2320, HD 1

Aloha Chair Green and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support the passage of HB 2320, HD 1.

For too long disease and illness have been viewed as aberrations, something singularly outside the norm. If only we had done X or taken care of Y then this person wouldn't be sick.

We are now beginning to accept that even the X's and Y's have causes. Life must be viewed holistically and so should the societal causes of disease and illness. It's interesting because when we think of aid workers in the third world they seem to always consider the societal causes of disease, i.e. no clean drinking water, lack of food, violence and trauma.

We haven't been applying the same lessons here at home though. For whatever reasons there were we now seem to be accepting the lessons. HB 2320, HD 1, will give us to tools to continue to learn those societal causes and to begin to address them.

Scott Wall  
VP/Legislative Advocate  
Community Alliance for Mental Health