



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2356
RELATING TO BIRTH DEFECTS

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 8, 2016

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None. The information about services and resources available for the
2 child with a birth defect will be provided within the current Birth Defects Program and Children
3 with Special Health Needs Branch resources. The programs that serve the children with birth
4 defects already exist and will be able to provide services early to the child to reduce potential
5 greater costs in the future.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports this administrative proposal. This
7 bill provides the authority to the Department of Health to communicate with the primary care
8 provider of a child identified with a birth defect, as a result of information collected pursuant to
9 birth defect studies, to provide information about programs and resources that may help the
10 child. The amended language also clarifies that an Institutional Review Board (IRB) may
11 exempt an activity that uses the birth defects data under the IRB rules of exemptions.

12 The provision of information about resources to the primary care physicians of children
13 with birth defects may result in potentially high-needs children and their families receiving
14 services to help them reach their health and learning potentials.

15 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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**American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section**

Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Chair
94-235 Hanawai Circle, #1B
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797



To: Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagen, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 8, 2016
TIME: 3 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Section, ACOG
Dr. Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Jennifer Salcedo, MD, MPH, MPP, FACOG, Vice-Chair
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB2356 Relating to Birth Defects

Position: Support

Dear Representatives Bellati, Creagen and Committee Members:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section (Hawaii ACOG) supports the proposal to amend the Section 324—43, Hawaii Revised Statutes that would allow the participation of health care providers in the collection of information from patients in the study of birth defects.

This bill will facilitate the collection of data and aid in the research that may ultimately lead to the improvement of healthcare in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your support of Hawaii Women's Health.