

LATE

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HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

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February 02, 2016 at 9:45am
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

To: Senator Roz Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support – SB 2228 – Relating to Beverages

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is the non-profit healthcare system comprised of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians.

HPH is writing in **support** of SB 2228 which restricts the types of beverages that public schools and private schools with state funding may sell to preschool students. The link between sugar consumption with obesity, heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes, is well documented. The lifestyle patterns that determine whether someone will struggle with weight issues can emerge as early as 2 years old when dietary habits are formed. The persistence of these habits carry into a child's adolescence and into adulthood where the effects of these chronic conditions have fully taken root.

Schools are arguably the single most effective institution with the broadest reach and the ability to improve educational and health outcomes for children. Therefore, the interventions proposed in this bill would be a very meaningful step towards reducing the rate of childhood obesity and ultimately adult obesity in Hawaii.

We hope that you pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH