



Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Senate Bill 2204 SD1
Testifying in Support with Amendments

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection, Commerce, and Health,

The Democratic Part of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in **support of SB2204 SD1** Relating to Health, which provides that certain pregnant women receiving substance abuse treatment are eligible for substance abuse treatment and mental health services for an additional twelve months following childbirth.

The Party asks the bill be amended so as to include any pregnant woman who sought treatment at any point during their pregnancy, instead of limiting it to those who sought treatment 60 days prior to giving birth.

The bill currently reads, “(c) Pregnant women who are ineligible for insurance coverage through their employment or med-QUEST and who receive substance abuse treatment during the sixty-day period prior to childbirth shall be eligible for substance abuse treatment, and mental health services for the treatment of their substance abuse, for not more than twelve additional months following childbirth, if they adhere to their substance abuse treatment requirements.”

Amendment would strike the words “during the sixty-day period”. The purpose of this amendment is not to limit penalize who sought treatment earlier in their pregnancy and exclude them from being able to receive what may be, life saving treatment post birth of their child.

The affects of Postpartum can be difficult for many people. Combine the lack of sleep, additional responsibilities, lack of social interaction, and a brand new program of recovery, and relapse can occur in high numbers.

“Relapse rates are high (80%) during the first year postpartum. Though the average return to use for cigarettes, cannabis, and alcohol was three to five months postpartum, return to cocaine use occurred on average nine to ten months postpartum. In addition to taking longer to resume use, cocaine had the highest sustained abstinence rate (40%) of the four substances analyzed. For alcohol and cannabis, only 10% of the women remained abstinent by 24 months postpartum, with similar findings for cigarette smokers.”

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably on this bill with the suggested amendment. Giving new mothers and children the greatest chance to live a life free from substance abuse and providing the most supportive environment to achieve that, is paramount.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

<https://www.recoveryanswers.org/research-post/stopping-starting-substance-use-pregnancy/>



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
Re: Testimony of Hawaii Women's Coalition in strong support of SB2204 SD1

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Women's Coalition writes in strong support of SB2204 SD1. Migrant and immigrant groups in Hawaii are at high risk of poor birth outcomes and increased NICU admissions due in part to daunting system barriers to continuous reproductive life health insurance coverage. For reasons of health, safety and the public purse, it makes good sense for Hawaii to extend MedQuest post-partum benefits through 12 months postpartum for all pregnant women. In practical terms this will impact primarily COFA migrants, recent immigrants with documents (green card) and undocumented immigrants.

In the first busy sleep deprived months with newborn, appointments for mom may become a low priority. Increasingly, young mothers are returning to the workforce shortly after pregnancy due to economic necessity. Two months is also a very short period of time for busy medical providers and case managers to address and work with high risk mothers on all the health issues we know can prevent future health problems for mom and baby, such as supporting breastfeeding and newborn care, assisting new mothers to choose an optimum family planning method, and addressing diabetes, postpartum depression, domestic violence, smoking relapse, substance abuse etc. and all while they still have insurance coverage.

Extending MedQuest coverage through 12 months postpartum is a good investment that national data and local experience indicates will likely pay for itself in lower costs resulting from improved birth outcomes and fewer NICU admissions.

Thank you for your support for this important measure.

Sincerely,
Hawaii Women's Coalition

SB-2204-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 12:07:18 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Ogez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an OBGYN here in Honolulu, I strongly support this bill, along with coverage of comprehensive health services. I take care of patients every day who I know will lose their insurance coverage at 60 days postpartum and will therefore experience poor health outcomes. These outcomes negatively affect that patient as well as their family and our entire community. Please help improve access to care for this vulnerable part of our community.

SB-2204-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 8:42:32 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Chin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist in Hawaii, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2204.**

As an obstetrician-gynecologist, I have been privileged to take care of many women covered under Medicaid insurance. I know that these are some of our most vulnerable, medically complex patients who need medical care both during and after their pregnancy. Currently, postpartum coverage for women under Medicaid is only guaranteed for 60 days. This is simply not enough time for us to take care of the women of Hawai'i and their families. Many of our patients lose insurance after this time period and are lost to follow up. Their medical problems are not taken care of and the next time we see them, they are pregnant again with more complex issues. Instead, we need to make sure coverage lasts for one year after delivery in order to ensure adequate postpartum care for our patients.

As an example, I recently took care of a patient who had high blood pressures and methamphetamine use in her pregnancy, which unfortunately resulted in a stroke and preterm delivery. What was especially sad is that she had both of these issues in her previous pregnancy and had been planning to obtain birth control but was unable to because of a loss of insurance. If she had been able to continue her medical care, her blood pressures would have been better controlled and she could have received treatment for her substance use disorder. Additionally, she would have been able to receive birth control which would have delayed her next pregnancy until she was healthier and ready for another baby. This is just one of the many patients we see who would greatly benefit from postpartum coverage for one year.

This is of particular importance in Hawai'i. Recent data shows that 50% of our maternal deaths between 2015-2016 were in the late postpartum period, which includes 43 days to one year after delivery. With the current Medicaid coverage, this is the exact time period when many women lose their insurance coverage and are unable to obtain necessary medical care. In addition to maternal deaths, we must remember that there are other serious consequences including stroke, organ failure, seizures, mental health problems, and substance use disorders. All of these issues do not disappear after the pregnancy is over. The women of Hawai'i need adequate postpartum coverage for one year after pregnancy.

Many other states have decided to prioritize one year of postpartum coverage. In fact, several Maternal Mortality Review Committees have specifically recommended ensuring one year of postpartum coverage to decrease maternal mortality across the nation. Providing uninterrupted health care coverage for one year after delivery for our most vulnerable patients will improve the health of Hawaii's women, children, and families.

I strongly support **SB2204** and I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SB-2204-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 8:17:05 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

I am writing in support of SB2204 SD1 which provides that certain pregnant women receiving substance abuse treatment are eligible for substance abuse treatment and mental health services for an additional twelve months following childbirth. (SD1)

Substance abuse is a serious problem for our community. We need to find more solutions to help vulnerable mothers and their children to end the cycle of drug abuse. Without interrupted treatment and rehabilitation, I don't know how the biological mother and child will be able to stay together.

Please pass SB2204 SD1.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice
In Support of SB 2204, SD1 – Relating to Health
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10:00 AM, in conference room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2204, SD1**, which would provide to certain women, who are otherwise ineligible for coverage, medical assistance and substance abuse treatment for 12 months following childbirth.

We believe that providing health care coverage 12 months postpartum will help improve the health of low-income, migrant, and immigrant women and babies, as they are at the highest risk for postpartum health complications. In addition to threatening the health of our mothers and children, poor birth outcomes add significant medical costs to the state.

Currently, MedQuest/Medicaid patients have coverage for only 60 days following childbirth. That is simply not enough to ensure postpartum health. For example, according to the Hawai'i Maternal Mortality Review Committee, of the 20 maternal deaths that occurred in 2015-2016, half of them occurred more than 42 days after childbirth.

While fewer than 1 in 25 (4%) of all Hawai'i residents have no health insurance, nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of Micronesian residents lack it. Women are also more likely to hold low-wage or part-time jobs that do not offer employer-sponsored health benefits, so MedQuest is more likely their only potential source of medical coverage.

Four states have already passed legislation extending postpartum care for Medicaid patients, and at least four more and the District of Columbia are considering legislation this year. Expanding coverage is already having good effects on health outcomes, with decreasing maternal mortality rates in Medicaid expansion states.

Extending MedQuest coverage to 12 months postpartum is a good investment that national data and local experience indicates will likely pay for itself by lowering the incidence and cost of poor postpartum health outcomes.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony. We urge you to pass this bill.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

SB-2204-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 5:45:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and committee members,

I strongly encourage your support of SB2204 to provide extended Medicaid coverage for post-partum services.

In Hawaii, 50% of the maternal deaths in 2015-2016 occurred between 43 days and one year after childbirth. It is thought that half of those could have been prevented.

Please pass SB2204.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service MSW (retired Child Welfare)

Senior Advocate

SB-2204-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 7:14:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Ing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support, but not just for substance abuse treatment. The coverage should be extended to included comprehensive health care to include management of other health comorbidities like mental health, cardiovascular disease, endocrine disease, etc.