Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means February 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

bv

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor and Dr. Gary K. Ostrander Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education & Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2790, SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawaii. We are grateful to the Legislature's attention to these needs. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

This program is currently underway with the involvement of the John A. Burns (JABSOM) faculty and staff. It addresses an important need in the state and preliminary assessment of our activities suggests we are having a positive impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.



Date
Committee:

February 22, 2008 On Ways and Means

Bill:

SB2790,SD1

Honorable Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committee On Higher Education

My name is Jackie Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. HMHB IS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2790, SD1, WHICH PROPOSES TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF THE PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT CLINIC ON OAH'U (PATH Clinic). This perinatal clinic provides comprehensive prenatal, delivery, postpartum care, and social services to pregnant women with a history of substance use.

The clinic opened in April, 2007 and has served over 50 women, most pregnant or immediately postpartum. The goal of the comprehensive care and services provided by the clinic is to improve outcomes for both mother and infant. There is general agreement that supportive and respectful care that addresses the perinatal, substance use, mental health, and pediatric aspects of at-risk pregnancies is optimal to get substance using women in for needed services.

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs state "the threat of criminal prosecution prevents many women from seeking prenatal care and early intervention for their alcohol or drug dependence,dissuades women from providing accurate and essential information to health care providers. The consequence is increased risk to the health and development of their children and themselves."

We urge your support for the passage of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this issue and our testimony.



February 22, 2008

Board of Directors Pamela Lichty, M.P.H.

President

Kat Brady Vice President

Heather Lusk Treasurer

Katherine Irwin, Ph.D. Secretary

Michael Kelley, D.Phil.

Richard S. Miller, Prof. of Law Emer.

Robert Perkinson, Ph.D.

Donald Topping, Ph.D. Founder 1929-2003

P.O. Box 61233 Honolulu, HI 96839

Phone: (808)-988-4386 Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: info@dpfhi.org Website: www.dpfhi.org To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair and

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 2790 SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care

Hearing: February 22, 2008, 11:00 a.m., Room 211

Position: Strong Support

I am in strong support of SB 2790 SD1 Relating to Perinatal Care which requests funds to extend the program for the perinatal clinic which provides prenatal care and other services for pregnant, substance using women.

Without the clinic, services that provide appropriate health care to substance using pregnant women to ensure the birth of a healthy baby are either extremely limited or unavailable.

The clinic's programs provide both substance abuse treatment, prenatal care, and follow up services in a supportive environment rather than a punitive one. One of the barriers to women seeking perinatal care is fear of prosecution. This type of program recognizes the importance of a public health approach to the issue of pregnant drug-using women.

The clinic would be cost effective as it would help prevent low-birth weight babies and premature births. Since the clinic also provides other services for the mother and baby, it also encourages healthy family relationships.

Please pass this bill and extend funding for the clinic. It is a good investment for the state and would in the long run save the state money. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.