



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.C.R. 141

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.C.R 141, requesting a sunrise review of insurance coverage for sexually transmitted disease (“STD”) testing.

PPVNH is dedicated to advocating for policies that promote sexual and reproductive health care and so we support these measures because they will shed light on the guidelines that insurance companies use to determine whether to cover STD testing. Currently, it is very difficult for patients to find out whether or not STD testing will be covered during a doctor’s visit and subsequently may decide not to be tested because they are afraid that they won’t be able to afford it. S.C.R. 141 will provide patients with the information that they need to proactively take care of their health.

Further, as the economic and other costs associated with STD testing are minimal compared to the cost of treating STIs, these measures will ensure that those who with STIs have access to the treatment and care that they need and will result in a decrease in the rates of infection and costs associated with STIs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.C.R. 141.

Sincerely,
Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director and Public Affairs Manager