



January 27, 2015

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

From: Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: **SUPPORT** – HB1674 Relating to Beverages For Children

Hearing: January 29, 2016 at 8:30am at Capitol Room 329

The Hawaii Public Health Association is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA **supports** the passage of HB1674 which establishes restriction on sugar-sweetened beverages and other beverages served in child care facilities.

This bill is critical in helping to reduce Hawaii's childhood obesity rates. On average, one in four children who reaches the age of attending Kindergarten in Hawaii is overweight or obese. Child care facilities are considerable contributors to children's overall health in this age group and younger. Due to the strong correlation between weight gain and sugar-sweetened beverage consumption as well as the promotion of tooth decay in the early years of childhood – Hawaii demonstrating more than double the national average - it is therefore a clear choice to vote in favor of eliminating sugar-sweetened beverages in child care facilities.

Providing better alternatives, such as 100% fruit juice, low-fat milk, water and other healthier alternatives to sugar-laden beverages in childcare facilities will result in healthier offerings to children within this young age-group while promoting life-long habits of overall wellness and improved beverage-consumption choices throughout childhood.

HPHA supports this policy to establish restriction on sugar-sweetened beverages and other beverages served in child care facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,


Holly Kessler
Executive Director