



February 16, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and  
Commerce

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – HB1895 HD1 RELATING TO INSURANCE,  
CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES**

Hearing: February 17, 2016 at 9:30am at State Capitol Room 329

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

**HPHA supports the passage of HB1895 HD1**, which requires insurers to cover contraceptive supplies for a 12-month period.

In 2010, 56% of all 16,000 pregnancies in Hawaii were unplanned. The unintended pregnancy rate was reported 61 per 1,000 women ages 15–44. Publicly supported family planning centers aided 19,800 female contraceptive clients in 2013. These locations met 28% of women’s need for contraceptive services and helped avert 4,800 unintended pregnancies in 2013. This



program was projected to have prevented 2,400 unplanned births and 1,600 abortions. However, many women do not seek care for unintended pregnancy due to costs and access to care.

Consistent access to birth control measures gives women the opportunity to family planning, resulting in better career and educational choices, healthier pregnancies, and better financial independence. Consistent access leads to continuous use of birth control, hence decreasing unintended pregnancy rates. By mandating insurance coverage of contraceptive supplies in an amount sufficient for a 12-month period, affordable and efficient access is feasible to women across Hawaii.

HPHA supports the encouragement of safe and accessible birth control methods for women in Hawaii. Contraceptives are an attainable way to prevent unintended or unwanted pregnancies and by increasing access through insurers, specific barriers will be mitigated.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of **HB1895 HD1**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH  
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair