



January 31, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – SB2317 RELATING TO HEALTH: MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW PANEL**

Hearing: February 02, 2016 at 8:30am at State Capitol Room 229

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 also 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 SB2317** which establishes a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel within the DOH to conduct a comprehensive review of maternal deaths that have occurred in the State.

Hawaii is currently ranked at 37th for maternal mortality in the US. Between 2001-2006, the maternal mortality ratio was estimated by the CDC as 13.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in Hawaii. Maternal Mortality Review Panels (MMRP) have been shown to decrease maternal mortality and increase the quality of care for all women. Establishment of an MMRP will enable identification of factors associated with maternal deaths, provide data to for establishment of preventative services and programs, and improve current methodology in delivery services and overall maternal care.

Further, an MMRP can identify the training needed in order for health care providers to react and provide care in severe situations during childbirth such as hemorrhage, venous thromboembolism, and severe hypertension. The MMRP will review these cases where death or near death occurs and provide examples and alternatives so that safety is ensured



in the future. These actions can therefore influence regulations and system changes to improve reaction times and performance during procedures.

HPHA supports the establishment of an MMRP that will identify system changes leading to decreased maternal mortality and provide the much needed quality of care for all women.

Thank you for considering our testimony concerning **SB2317**, which would establish a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel within the DOH to conduct a comprehensive review of maternal deaths that have occurred in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair