March 30, 2016 TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – SB2317 SD2 HD1** RELATING TO HEALTH: CHILD DEATH AND MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEWS

Hearing: March 30, 2016 at 3pm, State Capitol Conference Room 308

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 SD2 HD1** which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to conduct child death reviews and implement a program to perform maternal death reviews.

The Hawaii Child Death Review (CDR) system was established in 1997 by the Legislature through Hawaii Revised Statute §321-345. The CDR teams conducted comprehensive and multidisciplinary reviews of child deaths 0-17 years to understand risk factors of child deaths. The reviews focused on prevention of future child deaths and have also led to recommendations in ensuring child safety and providing optimal child health. CDRs require adequate resources to conduct the reviews and passage of this bill would enable this process to resume, since it has been inactive since 2011.

The United States maternal mortality ratio has increased and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that maternal mortality review committees are necessary for ensuring all pregnancy-related deaths are identified and reviewed, and that effective prevention actions are developed. The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs also supports a maternal mortality review process as pregnancy-related deaths are an indicator of the overall health of women of reproductive age. Many of these deaths

are preventable. According to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, state-level maternal mortality review committees are an important obstetric care and maternal public health function. Hawaii is one of fourteen states that do not conduct maternal mortality review in a comprehensive statewide system.

Child death and maternal death reviews would provide critical data to support prevention efforts to reduce child and maternal mortality and morbidity in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB2317 SD2 HD1**, which would allow funding to resume child death reviews and implement a program to conduct maternal death reviews.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair