



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 – SB2319** RELATING TO CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES ACCESS

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 SB2319** which requires insurers to cover 12 months of contraception coverage.

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 scheduling issues, costs of care, or not wanting to go through an embarrassing GYN examination to obtain a doctor’s prescription.

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 birth control for 12 months, affordable access is feasible to women across Hawaii.



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

Thank you for considering our testimony concerning **SB2319**, which requires insurers to cover 12 months of contraception coverage.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH  
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair