



February 22, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – SB2319 SD1 RELATING TO INSURANCE,
CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES ACCESS**

Hearing: February 23, 2016 at 9:50am at State Capitol Room 211

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 SD1, which requires all insurers in the State, including health benefits plans under chapter 87A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Medicaid managed care programs, to cover reimbursement for contraceptive supplies intended to last for up to a twelve-month period for an insured.

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 terminated pregnancies. However, many women do not seek care for unintended pregnancy due to costs of care and access.

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. By mandating insurance coverage of birth control supplies for a 12-month period, affordable access is feasible and efficient 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 concerning **SB2319 SD1**, which will provide easier access to safe birth control methods by ensuring reimbursement of contraceptive supplies for a twelve-month prescription.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair