



March 31, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

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

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – SB2319 SD1 HD2 RELATING TO INSURANCE,
CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES ACCESS**

Hearing: April 1, 2016 at 11:00am at State Capitol 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 **SB2319 SD1 HD2**, which requires health 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 12-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 invest their time in 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 HD2**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH

HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair