



February 21, 2020

To: The House Committee Members on Finance  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of HB2047 HD1, Relating to Health

Hrg: February 21, 2020 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

Please excuse the lateness of this testimony. The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group 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 strongly supports HB2047 HD1, which would establish a task force within the Department of Health to identify therapies and home- and community-based care services that may benefit persons having fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), including therapies and treatments that may benefit them as adults. This measure also requires the task to recommend in the form of a report to the Legislature that includes necessary policy or rule changes, or legislation to increase access to these therapies and services.

Studies on the prevalence and characteristics of FASD found the prevalence to be 6 and 9 per 1,000 children.<sup>1</sup> Based on physical assessments, FASD prevalence could range as high as 1 to 5 per 100 school children.<sup>2</sup> With an existing need clear, HPHA urges successful passage of this measure, as any findings and recommendations coming from this task force would help the people of Hawaii not only better understand exactly the impacts of FASD on human development but also how to care for those currently with FASD and those in the future who will have it.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Townsend', is written over a horizontal line.

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH  
Legislative Committee Chair  
Hawaii Public Health Association

Sources Cited:

1. CDC. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Among Children Aged 7-9 Years – Arizona, Colorado, New York, 2010. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2015;64(3):54-57
2. May PA, Baete A, Russo J, Elliott AJ, Blankenship J, Kalberg WO, Buckley D, Brooks M, Hansken J, Abdul-Rahman O, Adam MP, Robinson LK, Manning M, Hoyme HE. Prevalence and characteristics of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Pediatrics. 2014; 134:855-66.

