



## **Hawai'i Primary Care Association**

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### **Senate Committee on Health**

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Chair

The Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1179 RELATING TO TAXATION**

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer  
February 16, 2011 2:45 p.m. Agenda, Room 229**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association asks for your support for this measure, which would impose a new tax on sugary beverages and establish a fund for children's health with the proceeds. We believe that this measure would increase public awareness about the affect on health of these drinks. The obesity epidemic in our state and nation now warrants attention to poor nutritional habits, such as over-consumption of sugar. This measure will also help address the dire oral health status of children in Hawaii.

We are especially pleased that funds collected from this tax would go toward improving the health of Hawaii's children. Not only do our keiki need and deserve more attention paid to their health but the investment now will reap personal and public benefits for years to come with improved self-esteem, good health, and productivity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.