



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 1289

RELATING TO HEALTH

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer

February 9, 2011 2:45 p.m. Agenda, Room 229

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association asks for your support for this measure, which would impose additional taxes on alcoholic beverages and create a new assessment on sugary beverages. We believe that this measure would increase public awareness about the affect on health of these drinks. While the importance of moderating alcohol consumption has long been recognized, the obesity epidemic in our state and nation now warrants attention to poor nutritional habits, such as over-consumption of sugar.

We ask that at least part of the proceeds from the increased and new taxes be allocated to health needs, including public health awareness programs at the Department of Health and programs that address obesity such as at community health centers.

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