Testimony in Support of the Perinatal Care Clinic

The Pilot Perinatal Clinic will provide comprehensive prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care and social services on the island of Oahu to women who have a history of methamphetamine and other substance use.

As stated, "The goal of the comprehensive care and services provided by the clinic will be to facilitate the patient's transition from a troubled, pregnant woman to a coping, capable parent, assess the safety of the home environment for the child, and prevent outplacement and keep families together whenever possible".

It is noted that in the year 2000, 208 drug exposed infants were reported to the Child Welfare Service. These children are at risk for special health care needs. Physicians will follow these infants utilizing the concepts of the medical home and services provided by the DOH "Zero to Three" programs. In order to provide early intervention, repeated developmental assessments as the child grows are basic to these programs. Provision of services uses an interdisciplinary approach as is planned for the Perinatal Clinic.

Creation of the Perinatal Clinic gives us an opportunity to provide an integrated, coordinated program using the interdisciplinary approach going from the prenatal period through early childhood.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics supports legislation relating to the Perinatal Care Clinic.