April 4, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy

Hawaii Children’s Action Network

Re:  **SB 2340, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Health Insurance**

**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, April 4, 2018, 1:30 PM**

**On behalf of Hawaii Children’s Action Network (HCAN), we write in support of SB 2340, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Health Insurance**

HCAN supports SB 2340, which would codify at the state level key components of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure in Hawaii thousands of individuals including many children retain health insurance. Hawaii has been a leader over the years in ensuring access to healthcare for residents through pre-paid health insurance. Through this bill, Hawaii can continue to be a model for the rest of the U.S. on how to best care for children’s health.

Many families and children in Hawaii have benefited from the expanded coverage that ACA has provided. Nationwide, over 20 million people gained health insurance through the ACA, including 6.1 million young adults, ages 19 through 26, and 54,000 Hawaii residents. Additionally, the ACA expanded Hawaii’s Medicaid eligibility, meaning more families could qualify for insurance. This law has saved the State of Hawaii millions of dollars in uncompensated care costs (unpaid medical bills). If repealed, by 2019, 58.7 million people nationwide would be without healthcare.

No matter what happens to the Affordable Care Act on the national level, Hawaii needs to preserve health insurance for its most vulnerable populations.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the Committee pass this bill.**

*HCAN is a Hawaii based non-profit committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii’s children by improving their safety, health, and education.*