

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB1242
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: January 31, 2025; 1:34 PM

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$75,000 general fund appropriation.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SB1246,
3 which is to ensure access to reproductive health and family planning services. DOH is actively
4 working with community partners to secure a supply of mifepristone. SB1242 may supplement
5 those efforts by securing additional doses.

6 The department recommends amendments that permit the greatest degree of flexibility and
7 options as the situation develops.

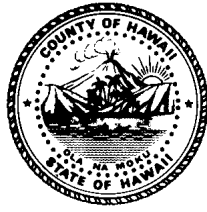
8 **Offered Amendments:**

9 SECTION 2. The department of health shall [~~purchase and~~
10 ~~store a one-year supply~~] coordinate the stockpiling of
11 mifepristone, in quantities as determined by the department of
12 health[-] for residents of the State. [~~The department of health~~
13 ~~shall coordinate with one or more pharmacies located in the~~
14 ~~State to purchase the supply.~~]

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the
4 purchase [~~of a one-year supply~~] of mifepristone.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 health for the purposes of this Act.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: January 29, 2025
TO: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member District 2
SUBJECT: SB 1246

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SB 1246, which directs the Department of Health to purchase and store a 1-year supply of mifepristone by working with one or more pharmacies in the State. All people in Hawai'i – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services. With abortion no longer protected at a federal level and potential Affordable Care Act (ACA) attacks in the future, Hawai'i should take measures as outlined in this bill to provide assurances that our people have access to the medications that they may need in the future. As mifepristone has a five-year shelf life, this seems like a worthwhile investment to make at this time.

All people deserve equal access to health care and the freedom to decide whether to become a parent or grow a family, and all people deserve access to preventive services that keep them healthy. Please support this bill to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have access to the care they need!

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jenn Kagiwada

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:06:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While abortion is legal in Hawaii, the threats to our reproductive healthcare including abortion options are under threat. Therefore, the members of AAUW of Hawaii strongly support SB1246. Please pass this measure and mahalo for hearing this bill.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:58:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Testifying for Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of Indivisible Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1246 which directs the Department of Health to purchase and store a 1 year supply of mifepristone by working with 1 or more pharmacies in the State.

We are grateful that Hawai'i's laws protect reproductive freedom but it is currently under threat across the US. Mifepristone is the most common method for abortion and has proven to be safe for pregnant persons. For the Department of Health to have a one-year supply will ensure continued access as the political climate changes under the Trump administration. They have proven to be reckless and frequently act in contradiction to the laws of the land.

Sincerely,

Gaye Chan

Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network.

We're a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. In Hawai'i, we have ten groups across four islands, representing over a thousand pro-democracy citizens.



LATE

Written Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Health
January 30, 2025

By the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA)

Re: SB 1246 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE

Chairperson Senator Joy A San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Senator Henry Aquino,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment on SB 1246. We provide testimony on behalf of our professional member organization, the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA), whose mission is “to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs).” Within our stated purpose is to support legislation related to women’s health issues and to represent official positions of the ACNM.

IN SUPPORT WITH COMMENT FOR SB 1246

ACNM’s Position Statement regarding “Access to Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Services (2016)” affirms the following:

Everyone has the right to make choices regarding sexual and reproductive health (SRH) that meet their individual needs.

Everyone has the right to access factual, evidence-based, unbiased information about available SRH care services in order to make informed decisions.

Access to SRH care services should be available and affordable for those with limited means.

Parenting, adoption, and abortion are all legal and appropriate SRH options within the ethical context of self-determination.

Midwifery care includes fertility assessment and support of those who seek pregnancy.

Midwifery care includes support of individuals who choose to not become pregnant as part of their reproductive life plans.

As providers of SRH care, midwives may provide abortion care as expanded scope of practice depending on scope of practice regulations and credentialing approval in the state.

<https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/ACNMLibraryData/UPLOADFILENAME/0000000000087/Access-to-Comprehensive-Sexual-and-Reproductive-Health-Care-Services-FINAL-04-12-17.pdf>

The HAA Board is in strong support of SB 1246 relating to healthcare. In light of increasing federal restrictions on access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services which includes access to standard of care pharmacologic treatment for elective abortion, the HAA Board, in alignment with ACNM official positions, supports protection of the right to privacy and bodily autonomy of individuals in Hawai'i via stockpiling mifepristone, an abortifacient medication, in alignment with other states in the regions such as California and Washington.

It is unclear after the initial investment of the State, will the doses be for sale or available for all. The bill mentioned in-person care is not available on all islands. Will Hawai'i tax payers equally benefit from this investment? Is there a way to equally protect access? The bill could be amended to indicate how the doses would be dispensed. Furthermore, will the State be reimbursed? For taxpayers who may not feel in alignment with the position stated above regarding access to care, a mechanism for State reimbursement could seek to address this philosophical debate.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and we are available for comment via email.

Sincerely,

The Hawai'i Affiliate of ACNM Board

Annette Manant, PhD, ARPN, CNM President

Connie Conover, CNM, MSN Vice President & Treasurer

Margaret Ragen, CM, LM, MS Secretary & Affiliate Legislative Contact

acnmhawaiiaffiliate@gmail.com

<https://hawaiiimidwives.org/>

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

LATE

From: Chevelle Davis, MPH - Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Subject: Measure S.B. No. 1246 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Friday, January 31, 2025, at 1:34 PM, Conference Room 225

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of S.B. No. 1246**, which directs the Department of Health to purchase and store a one-year supply of mifepristone in partnership with pharmacies across the state. This measure is critical in ensuring that individuals can access safe, timely, and effective reproductive healthcare regardless of shifting federal policies or supply chain disruptions.

Access to mifepristone is not just a matter of bodily autonomy but also of economic, racial, and familial justice. Barriers to abortion care disproportionately harm marginalized communities, including low-income families, Indigenous peoples, and communities of color. These same populations already face higher maternal mortality rates and reduced access to comprehensive healthcare services. By securing a stable supply of this essential medication, Hawai'i can affirm its commitment to health equity and reproductive freedom.

Mifepristone allows pregnant individuals to make timely decisions about their reproductive health, reducing the need for more invasive and costly procedures later in pregnancy, which often requires traveling by plane for people who do not live on O'ahu. When people can control their reproductive futures, they can better provide for and nurture their existing children. Research consistently shows that the majority of individuals seeking abortion care are already parents, making it clear that reproductive healthcare is family care. This bill supports parents in making decisions that best serve their families' well-being, stability, and economic security by ensuring continued access to mifepristone.

Additionally, a proactive approach to securing a mifepristone supply strengthens our public health infrastructure by mitigating the risks of legal or logistical barriers that may arise in the future. States that have taken similar measures recognize that access to medication abortion is an essential component of comprehensive healthcare and a fundamental right.

I urge you to pass **S.B. No. 1246** to protect access to critical reproductive healthcare and uphold the rights of individuals and families to make the best decisions for their lives and well-being. Mahalo for your leadership in advancing reproductive justice and ensuring that all residents of Hawai'i have access to the care they need.



*The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawai'i, Guam & American Samoa Section*

LATE

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator Joy H. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Date: Friday January 31, 2025

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Video Conference

From: Hawai'i Section, ACOG

Re: SB 1246 - Relating to Health Care
Position: SUPPORT

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Hawai'i Section supports **Senate Bill 1246 (SB1246)**, which takes a crucial step in protecting reproductive health access by directing the Department of Health to stockpile a one-year supply of **mifepristone**, ensuring continued availability of medication abortion in the state.

Hawai'i has a long-standing commitment to reproductive rights, being the first state in the nation to decriminalize abortion at the request of the patient in 1970. The Hawaii State Legislature has repeatedly expressed a commitment to protecting reproductive rights since then. However, recent shifts in the legal and political landscape, particularly the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, have placed reproductive autonomy under threat across the country. As other states impose severe restrictions and potential civil or criminal liability for providing or receiving abortion care, Hawai'i must take proactive measures to safeguard access for its residents.

SB1246 upholds Hawai'i's policy of protecting bodily autonomy and access to reproductive health services by:

1. **Ensuring a Supply of Mifepristone** – Given that 63% of abortions in Hawai'i are medication-based, any disruption in the availability of mifepristone could severely impact patient care. By stockpiling a one-year supply, the Department of Health can ensure continuity in reproductive health services despite potential **regulatory, legal, or supply chain disruptions**.
2. **Addressing Geographic Barriers to In-Person Abortion Care** – In-person abortion care in Hawai'i is not available on every island, and residents face significant logistical and financial burdens to access this care. Medication abortion, which can be prescribed and administered remotely, is a vital option for those in rural and neighbor island communities. Ensuring an adequate stock of mifepristone supports equitable access for all individuals, regardless of location.
3. **Proactively Safeguarding Reproductive Rights in Hawai'i** – Other states, including **California, New York, Massachusetts, and Washington**, have already taken steps to **stockpile medication abortion drugs** as a protective measure.

Protecting access to essential reproductive healthcare aligns with Hawai'i's long-standing values of **privacy, autonomy, and equity in health services**. For these reasons, **ACOG Hawai'i Section supports SB1246**.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing reproductive health protections in our state. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide more information.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:53:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1246 to protect reproductive care options. Thank you for hearing this bill.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:10:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianne Byun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident physician with Hawaii Pacific Health, it is an immense privilege to provide women the means to choose what they want for their future and their bodies. Mifepristone is an effective medication to help women terminate pregnancies. This can be for any kind of circumstance - the happily married women who don't have the financial means to support another child, the teenager who wanted to go to college before becoming a mother, someone who got pregnant while using reliable birth control - there are so many different circumstances that can lead a woman to this decision, and it's not an easy one. With the recent changes in our government leadership, I believe it is important to stock Mifepristone, because it may not be available for much longer and we have a duty to these women to allow them to choose the future they want for themselves.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:57:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Komal Soin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee on Health and Human Services,

Mahalo for hearing this bill. As a Family Medicine Physician on Oahu, I am in support of this bill to purchase and store a 1 year supply of Mifepristone. Hawaii is a protective state for Abortion care and this bill would align with Hawaii's long tradition of protecting an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy. As a physician, a woman, and a citizen of this state I strongly believe providing access and choice for all our people is highly important. With the current change in administration there is the possibility that access to this medication could be hindered moving forward. Having a stock in Hawai'i as we figure out federal landscape would help in providing access to our people for the immediate future.

Mahalo,

Komal Soin

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:06:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please ensure the state of Hawai'i make plans to stockpile abortion medication, specifically mifepristone. Ideally, this would be done in partnership with a multi-state network, including California, Washington State and Massachusetts, states that currently stockpile medication abortion, or have done so in the recent past. This will enable our state to benefit from shared experience and resources.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:18:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access. It's VERY important that women retain access to the this and non-invasive approach to reproducitve care.

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 2:42:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radhika Amin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would help and support many of Hawaii's patients.

LATE



To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, January 31, 2025. 1:34 PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT/SUPPORT of SB 1246**

Dear Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair and the Members of Committee,

Members of *Indivisible Hawai'i* thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support/support of SB 1246 which would create a stockpile of the abortion medication Mifepristone to assure that, regardless of action taken at the federal level, Hawai'i's residents still have access to essential reproductive health services. We also recommend that the Department of Health collaborate and share resources with states that have experience with stockpiling mifepristone, such as California and Washington State – if they have not already done so.

Mifepristone is used in over 60% of U.S. abortions. Mifepristone is now available from certified providers via mail and at pharmacies for use up to 10 weeks' gestation. However, women's access to mifepristone still largely depends on state law, with only about half of U.S. states allowing full access. In 2023, several states led by Democratic governors, including Massachusetts, California and Washington State began stockpiling doses of drugs used in medication abortions, amid fears that a court ruling could restrict access to them. Most stockpiled mifepristone, which has a shelf life of 5 years. California also stockpiled misoprostol, with a shelf life of 2 years. California reported in June 2024 their stockpiles had been depleted. As of October 2024, at least two states, Washington State and Massachusetts, maintain a stockpile of mifepristone.

In June 2024, the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) issued a ruling that (temporarily) left current laws and regulations in place. A battle is right now being waged in the lower federal courts re: access to and restrictions on mifepristone specifically, and abortion essentially. **In the same way that recent SCOTUS rulings have required Hawai'i to fundamentally reshape its gun laws, so federal rulings and restrictions could suddenly and significantly impact abortion access in our state.** As early as 2025, restrictions on medication abortion could come from federal courts, SCOTUS, Congress and/or the Executive branch. The Republican majority in Congress may attempt to enforce old **Comstock laws that ban the mailing of contraceptives and abortifacients**, and will use this as a basis for a nationwide ban of abortifacients, including mifepristone and misoprostol. Therefore, we respectfully request that Hawaii's legislature act with all due speed to create a state medication abortion stockpile in order to protect the rights and health of all women and families in Hawai'i nei.

Sincerely,
Doris Segal Matsunaga, MPH
Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team

Indivisible Hawai'i is a grassroots organization with ten groups across four islands, representing over a thousand pro-democracy citizens. Indivisible is a national grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:48:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selena Vanapruks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a medical student, I strongly support SB1246. Medication abortion is an important part of women's health care and reproductive rights. It is often the only option for women, and is the only non-invasive way to terminate a pregnancy. Hawai'i was the first state to legalize abortion for all women. We must continue to stand behind women's rights and women's health. We must make strides to support medication abortion by keeping a stock of mifepristone on-hand. Medication abortion has a narrow window of effectiveness, at most 6 weeks after a woman might first learn that she is pregnant, and any disruptions to the supply chain can significantly affect access to this important medication. As you all know, Hawai'i is often the first to be affected by supply chain disruptions, and often we are most severely impacted.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:08:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

MAHALO for considering this pro-active strategy to protect the women and families and health care providers across the State of Hawai'i. I strongly support this proposal and funding. Please be sure that DOH works with licensed pharmacies with presence on all of the neighbor islands to ensure equitable access statewide.

Mahalo, Patti Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:31:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Farnum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation as all women deserve bodily autonomy & to make health decisions in privacy with the assistance of their doctors.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:15:45 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy McCluskey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1246 has my enthusiastic support.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:24:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:30:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

These are scary times for healthcare in general and especially for reproductive health care for women. Please support this bill to protect options for care for women.

Thank you,

Joanne Amberg CNM RN MSN MPH

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:08:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:00:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Harvey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:35:51 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Abney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:29:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Senate regarding Bill 1246:

Please, please support this bill. The changes regarding reproductive healthcare the Trump administration and its supporters are pushing could have huge, dangerous consequences, especially regarding the freedom, autonomy, and literal lives of women. It is alarming how many states are attempting to restrict and even criminalize essential healthcare services (in South Carolina's case where a woman who undergoes an abortion could be convicted of murder and sentenced to the death penalty). Most people agree that third term abortions should be limited to saving the life of the mother. That is something most people can agree on so it is acceptable to legislate that. However, the exact moment when life starts is a philosophical and religious question. In the absence of consensus on the topic, we cannot and should not legislate it, and especially should not criminalize it. Laws doing so have no place in a democratic, pluralistic society. Each women should be able to decide with her doctor, privately, what she would like to do with her own body. She is our mother, friend, partner, and sister. Do everything you can to protect her. Keep Hawaii law strong against the current administration's undemocratic, partisan, and religious agenda.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Davidson

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:39:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Senate Bill SB 1246.

We can not take anything for granted in regards to women's access to reproductive health care. The Hawaii Department of Health should purchase and store a one-year supply of mifepristone by working with pharmacies in the State.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:58:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access. A person's health care should be between themselves and their health care provider. Politicians and religious leaders have no place in making health care decisions and frequently the decisions they make are based on ignorance and wind up harming people!

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:00:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:51:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn O'Mahony	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:31:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:03:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Barger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support measure SB1246 to protect reproductive healthcare access.

I urge you to support SB1246 as well.

DB of Kihei, HI

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:14:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Strong Support of SB1246

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura and Committee Members.

This bill protects the individual's right to privacy and personal autonomy over one's body. Please pass this bill.

Nancy Moser (in Waikoloa 96738)

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:36:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive healthcare access.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:52:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Offley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Sharon Offley, APRN support SB1246. As a women's health care provider on Kauai I can attest to the critical importance of full access to reproductive health care. This measure helps to support full access to reproductive health care during a time when it is in grave jeopardy.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:09:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii strongly supports SB1246

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:09:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail M Otto, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 1246. Help protect our patient's right to access to life-saving medications. This medication is used for management of miscarriage and abortion. Physicians and constituents of Hawaii overwhelmingly support women's access to choice in our state, please help ensure this in the face of possible changes from the federal government. Protect women's lives! The cost to purchase these medications pales in comparison to the cost of a human life and of the overall budget.

Abigail Otto, MD

OBGYN

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:37:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Rault	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to stock one year of mifepristone. As an OBGYN and complex family planning fellow, I provide abortions all day everyday. I work at 3 of the clinics that provide more than 90% of the abortions in the state of Hawaii. The majority of our patients opt for medication abortion. It is right and smart to stockpile mifepristone to ensure our patients have access to this medication to ensure they have the right and choice to a medication abortion if they desire.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:34:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Shigeta-Koch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I am writing to oppose SB1246. With all the needs for the people of Hawaii by purchasing mifepristone (the abortion pills) this seems a ridiculous way to spend \$75,000 of the taxpayers money. These medications are inexpensive. And why is there a need to purchase this readily available drugs?

Bottom line the funds should not be distributed when we need these funds to be allocated to many of the other needs of the Hawaii people. Our roads have potholes and are patched all over everywhere, the Maui fire victims still need assistance, the list could go on.

Allocating funds to this purchase is unnecessary and not needed.

Please stop this bill from passing.

Much aloha for receiving this testimony. Please to all our elected senators, please focus on the true and higher needs of your people.

Sincerely,

- Anne Shigeta-Koch

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:41:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I most strongly oppose SB 1246.

For the sake of the health and safety of Hawaii's women, do not pass this bill. It is an abuse of taxpayer funds. Stocking dangerous pharmaceuticals such as Mifepristone, a pill that destroys the life of a baby and destroys the physical and emotional well being of the baby's mother, is not in the best interest of the residents of Hawaii.

Abortion pills are not healthcare, not when the intent is to end the life of a living human being. Many women, reported to be one in twenty-five, who take these abortifacients end up needing hospital care, some even die. The 2022 Amber Thurman story. It was a case of medical malpractice by the hospital staff following an incomplete abortion that led to her death. It was the abortion medication that caused her death, not the loss of access to abortion services. It was the abortion service being advocated in this bill that was the direct cause of her death.

According to Drugs.com website, there is an important warning that says: "This medicine can cause some serious health issues". The site also indicates: "Serious and sometimes fatal infections and bleeding occur very rarely following spontaneous, surgical, and medical abortions, including following mifepristone use."

If Hawaii's government provides these dangerous drugs, the state will likely be opening itself up to numerous lawsuits. We shouldn't be providing drugs we know have death as a known side effect.

The recent mandates for vaccinations has proven to me that Hawaii has no interest in protecting bodily autonomy. The introduction of vaccine passports make it clear that Hawaii is very

selective about privacy protections. Abortion continues to be a top priority of the elected officials of Hawaii, but not the residents.

No one has a right to kill their baby, born or pre-born. The Constitution enshrines the right to life. This bill promotes and funds the nullification of that right.

Do not pass SB 1246.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:32:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill needs to be killed. I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:20:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jose R Nater-Rodriguez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am absolutely APPALLED to learn that Senator San Buenaventura, who holds herself out to be a champion for our children and purports to care about Hawai'i's keiki, has introduced a measure to ensure the KILLING of them!

As an elected official *whose supposed to **ensure transparency and clarity** so that all members of the public can clearly understand what is being proposed* and have a chance to weigh in on matters and issues important to them, directing "the Department of Health to purchase and store a 1 year supply of mifepristone by working with 1 or more pharmacies in the State" fails to spell out that **mifepristone is also known as RU-486 which is also known as THE ABORTION PILL!**

Failing to call this poison out by *all* its known monikers looks like an attempt to cover it up or conceal what it is so that Hawai'i citizens will see the name "mifepristone" and pass the bill by, not knowing what it is. I can only hope that this failure to elaborate and expand upon mifepristone's other names was accidental and not intentional.

Mifepristone is not a life-saving medication but a life-ending one and as such, it is not an essential commodity to STOCKPILE, nor do I give consent as a taxpayer to allow \$75,000 of revenues I personally contribute to to be mismanaged in the manner which is proposed.

California, New York, Massachusetts and Washington may have enough expendable fiscal resources in their state budgets to carry out their evil but we have bigger and more immediate pressing concerns in Hawai'i that could benefit from \$75,000 of state revenues.

For all of these reasons, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1246**.

Jose R. Nater-Rodriguez

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:32:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am absolutely APPALLED to learn that Senator San Buenaventura, who holds herself out to be a champion for our children and purports to care about Hawaii's keiki, has introduced a measure to ensure the KILLING of them!

As an elected official *whose supposed to **ensure transparency and clarity** so that all members of the public can clearly understand what is being proposed* and have a chance to weigh in on matters and issues important to them, directing "the Department of Health to purchase and store a 1 year supply of mifepristone by working with 1 or more pharmacies in the State" fails to spell out that **mifepristone is also known as RU-486 which is also known as THE ABORTION PILL!**

Failing to call this poison out by *all* its known monikers looks like an attempt to cover it up or conceal what it is so that Hawaii citizens will see the name "mifepristone" and pass the bill by, not knowing what it is. I can only hope that this failure to elaborate and expand upon mifepristone's other names was accidental and not intentional.

Mifepristone is not a life-saving medication but a life-ending one and as such, it is not an essential commodity to STOCKPILE, nor do I give consent as a taxpayer to allow \$75,000 of revenues I personally contribute to to be mismanaged in the manner which is proposed.

California, New York, Massachusetts and Washington may have enough expendable fiscal resources in their state budgets to carry out their evil but we have bigger and more immediate pressing concerns in Hawaii that could benefit from \$75,000 of state revenues.

For all of these reasons, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1246**.

January 29, 2025

TO: Hawaii State Legislature

Reference: SB1246, Relating to Health Care. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill!!!

Thank you for considering my testimony on SB1246, Relating to Health Care.

The language used in this bill, uses a very hypothetically notion that the supply of mifepristone and misoprostol will be in short supply or outlawed in production due to the Federal Government ending the funding of abortions. This is comical in nature and downright misleading in focus.

First, these drugs are a money maker for the drug companies, they are not going to stop the drug's supply and the federal government is NOT going to prohibit manufacturing of these drugs; as a capital-based economy, demand always drives supply. Several states promote abortion-using drugs so demand will remain high.....!

Second, isn't the Hawaiian state budget strapped, meaning, the legislature is looking for ways to reduce the budget and pull from one account to support expenditures to another account. How, with Medicaid claims exceeding funds, is the legislature going to allocate \$75,000 for mifepristone and/or misoprostol? Where are the funds coming from? How's recovery of Maui coming along?

Third, how many pills does \$75,000 buy? An internet search revealed the average cost of these two drugs is approximately \$0.05 a piece. As I understand, discounts based upon purchase quantity are also available bringing the cost down to around \$0.03 a piece. Taking these costs into consideration that means overtime, the state will buy and store 1,500,000 mifepristone pills. Referring to the Mifepristone drug guide available through the FDA, only one mifepristone is needed along with a second drug to end an abortion. Is the Hawaii state legislature supporting the ending of 1,500,000 pregnancies?

Fourth, what is the 'shelf-life' of mifepristone averages is about 5 years. Of course, as I understand it, mifepristone loses its potency (efficacy) over time.....implying that.....consuming mifepristone may or may not work to end a pregnancy as advertised; resulting in a medical emergency at best.

Fifth, according to the FDA website - reference, Mifepristone Drug Guide - there are significant side-affects using this drug. Primarily it can cause heavy bleeding, sever stomach cramps, a fever lasting over 4 days, and so on. The problem being, this drug is available for home use with little physician oversight - no doctor visit requirement for a health examination to determine length of pregnancy (10 weeks or less)..... or the drug's interaction with other drugs consumed by the patient. It is unknown how often

mifepristone side effects occur because there's no requirement for formal reporting if/when a female patient seeks medical care as a result of using this drug.

Sixth, the State of Hawaii has enshrined abortion in its constitution. I do not agree, but it is the law. Also, the Federal Government and the Supreme Court has stipulated in the overturn of Roe v. Wade that 'each' state will determine its own abortion laws. So, why does Hawaii need to purchase mifepristone?

To close, I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1246. If abortion is the 'front and center' of our legislative focus....than we have a moral leadership problem in Hawaii and need to re-evaluate what the "Aloha State" really stands for.

Valerie Streff
Kapolei, HI 96707

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:52:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill because we should not be stockpiling drugs that can assist with abortion. We should be stockpiling other crucial medicines in case there is another widespread medical emergency.

More importantly, the \$75,000 could be put to better use, such as helping to fund our poorer communities so our disadvantaged keiki do not go hungry or go without school supplies or other necessities they may need.

This bill is a total waste of taxpayer monies, so please kill the bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.

Donna Van Osdol

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:34:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Lai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This SB1246 is NOT in any way going to help our children and women. Mifepristone (or RU-486) is a pill that will KILL babies. It is an abortion pill. Why should we be using State funds to stock these pills? It is NOT a life saving pill but a life ending one. It is NOT an essential commodity that we need to STOCKPILE on and I do not give consent as a taxpayer to allow \$75,000 of revenues I personally contribute to, as a taxpayer. We have more important and pressing needs here in Hawaii that could benefit from \$75,000 of state revenues. Please use our very limited state funds for what we really help people. Help with homelessness, helping to make living here more affordable, help w food prices, healthcare costs, etc.

People generally have a choice in terms of pregnancy and are responsible for the actions they take. There are birth control pills and so many ways to avoid pregnancy. For people who are homeless, jobless, sick and need healthcare, they often do NOT have a choice and are finding themselves in this situation because of circumstances that are not in their control.

Please use our very limited state funds wisely; let it truly help the people that really need it.

Thank you.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:40:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian Aiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Reference: SB1246 Relating to Health Care.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill to authorize the Legislature's purchase of \$75,000 worth of the drug, **Mifepristone** – used to induce abortion.

The Legislature is playing God as this would then fund abortions for over 1.5 million pregnancies.

The unknown affects/effects of this drug both physically and mentally, by females, even once or repetitively, is grossly ignored.

This is NOT a GUMMY BEAR candy given to anyone casually, and the Legislature surely is **NOT** the Doctor of Psychology nor Obstetrics to disperse funds towards a quick fix, which **will affect women for their lifetime.**

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:44:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald E. Streff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

REF: SB1246, Relating to Health Care.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill!!!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

In my opinion this bill is an over reaction to a problem yet to materialize.

I begin by asking what liability the State of Hawaii incurs through the purchase and prescribing of this drug? Is the State of Hawaii also liable for future healthcare expenses?

Recent and past news reports indicate a very strapped state budget and the current legislative body is researching ways to redirect funds between accounts? If correct. How will Medicaid be affected for other healthcare? Shouldn't the \$75,000 be used for the Maui fire tragedy?

How many pills does \$75,000 buy? At a modest \$0.05 apiece (internet search) it appears the state will buy and store up to 1,500,000 mifepristone pills. The FDA Mifepristone Drug Guide shows only one mifepristone is required to end a pregnancy; this implies the Hawaii state legislature supports the termination of up to 1,500,000 pregnancies? Hawaiian Aloha anyone?

The FDA shows a 'shelf-life' for mifepristone averages about 5 years; but loses its efficacy over time..... Unsure whether that decline in potency starts in days, months or years. Government spending waste?

According to the FDA Mifepristone Drug Guide, there are several 'life-threatening' side effects: heavy bleeding, sever stomach cramps, a fever lasting over 4 days, and so on. Recommending emergency services for these cases. State liability anyone?

The most concerning problem and moral question,"This drug is available for home use with little physician oversight - no doctor visit requirement for a health examination to determine length of pregnancy (10 weeks or less)..... or drug interaction for drugs being consumed by the patient." What is the State's legal and/or moral liability for these pre-purchased drugs?

Last comment: These drugs are a money maker for the drug companies; therefore, these companies are not going to stop drug production, nor will the federal government prevent

manufacturing.....As Several states promote/condone abortion using drugs....logic implies demand will remain high and supply robust....!

To close, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1246**. If abortion is the ‘front and center’ of our legislative focus....Hawaii has a moral leadership problem and ‘we’ need to re-evaluate what the “Aloha State” really stands for.

Gerald Streff, Kapolei Resident

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:20:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose the passing of this bill.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:07:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Smolko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill!!!

Thank you for considering my testimony on SB1246, Relating to Health Care.

The language used in this bill, uses a very hypothetically notion that the supply of mifepristone and misoprostol will be in short supply or outlawed in production due to the Federal Government ending the funding of abortions. This is comical in nature and downright misleading in focus.

First, these drugs are a money maker for the drug companies, they are not going to stop the drug's supply and the federal government is NOT going to prohibit manufacturing of these drugs; as a capital-based economy, demand always drives supply. Several states promote abortion-using drugs so demand will remain high....!

Second, isn't the Hawaiian state budget strapped, meaning, the legislature is looking for ways to reduce the budget and pull from one account to support expenditures to another account. How, with Medicaid claims exceeding funds, is the legislature going to allocate \$75,000 for mifepristone and/or misoprostol? Where are the funds coming from? How's recovery of Maui coming along?

Third, how many pills does \$75,000 buy? An internet search revealed the average cost of these two drugs is approximately \$0.05 apiece. As I understand, discounts based upon purchase quantity are also available bringing the cost down to around \$0.03 apiece. Taking these costs into consideration that means overtime, the state will buy and store 1,500,000 mifepristone pills. Referring to the Mifepristone drug guide available through the FDA, only one mifepristone is needed along with a second drug to end an abortion. Is the Hawaii state legislature supporting the ending of 1,500,000 pregnancies?

Fourth, what is the 'shelf-life' of mifepristone averages is about 5 years. Of course, as I understand it, mifepristone loses its potency (efficacy) over time.....implying that.....consuming mifepristone may or may not work to end a pregnancy as advertised; resulting in a medical emergency at best.

Fifth, according to the FDA website - reference, Mifepristone Drug Guide - there are significant side-affects using this drug. Primarily it can cause heavy bleeding, sever stomach cramps, a fever lasting over 4 days, and so on. The problem, this drug is available for home use with little

physician oversight - no doctor visit requirement for a health examination to determine length of pregnancy (10 weeks or less)..... or the drug's interaction with other drugs consumed by the patient. It is unknown how often mifepristone side affects occur because there's no requirement for formal reporting if/when a female patient seeks medical care as a result of using this drug.

Sixth, the State of Hawaii has enshrined abortion in its constitution. I do not agree, but it is the law. Also, the Federal Government and the Supreme Court have stipulated in the overturn of Roe v. Wade that 'each' state will determine its own abortion laws. So, why does Hawaii need to purchase mifepristone?

To close, I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1246. If abortion is the 'front and center' of our legislative focus....than we have a moral leadership problem in Hawaii and need to re-evaluate what the "Aloha State" really stands for.

Matthew Smolko

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:37:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxana Angelica Jimenez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Senate,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB1246, which allows taxpayer funding for stockpiling the drug mifepristone, also known as RU-486. The "RU" in RU-486 stands for the company, Roussel-Uclaf, the same company that produced the cyanide gas for the Nazi death camps during the horror of the Holocaust. Mifepristone is not a life-saving medication but a dangerous, life-ending one, and as such is not an essential commodity to stockpile. Studies show that 1 in 25 women experience complications from the drug, including severe hemorrhaging. Young girls are putting their developing bodies at risk by taking this poison pill and then haphazardly flushing fetuses down the toilet. This occurrence has gotten out of hand here in Hawaii as other testimony from local professionals of all kinds will attest. I don't support my tax dollars going to endanger or end the lives of my fellow Hawaii residents.

Respectfully,

Roxana A. Jimenez, Oahu resident, mother, and attorney

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:46:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it kills babies. Can you imagine if all State Legislators who are pro choice Mothers chose abortion. Drug companies will continue to manufactor Mifepristone they don't care who buys it the Federal Government won't give money to buy it but the State of Hawaii wants to spend 75K to buy Mifepristone. I think this is not a good use of tax payers dollars

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:02:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison A Aquino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1246 because it allows women to take the life of an unborn child. A life, at conception is just as important as a toddler, a teenager or a senior citizen. All human life should be valued at any age. Would you allow a toddler to take a pill to end it's life?

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:13:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Guy Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:44:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB 1246. San Buenaventura represents death and death towards our keiki and future. How do you expect for us to pay for the 15 billion dollar useless rail which nobody rides? Supporters of this bill are possibly being paid by lobbyist or other source for their depopulation agenda. We will stand up and fight for the unborn and be the Voice for the Voiceless. The New World Order has no place in Hawaii and those who support this demonic bill should leave Hawaii because you seem to want Hawaii babies to be exterminated. Sick and tired of satanic bills being introduced!!!!

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:47:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a man, I believe SB1246 is an unnecessary and irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. This bill would allocate \$75,000 to stockpile mifepristone, a widely available abortion medication, despite no immediate threat to its supply. Instead of prioritizing essential services like education, family support, and health care, the state is choosing to stockpile a drug based on political speculation rather than real need.

Beyond the financial waste, this bill ignores the role men play in reproductive decisions. Fatherhood and responsibility should be part of the conversation, yet SB1246 pushes abortion as the easiest solution without addressing the importance of shared decision-making, family support, or alternatives like adoption. If the state is going to invest in reproductive services, why not fund programs that support fatherhood, provide resources for struggling parents, or encourage personal responsibility?

This bill also sets a dangerous precedent. Stockpiling abortion medication is not sound policy, especially when there are more pressing issues in Hawaii. The state should be helping families thrive, not making abortion more accessible while neglecting the broader conversation about family values and shared responsibility.

I oppose SB1246. It misuses public funds, sidelines men in reproductive decisions, and prioritizes a one-sided agenda instead of real, meaningful support for families.

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:43:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Tokars	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am pro life. One of the Ten Commandments says Thou shalt not KILL. So, please do not pass this. Every human being is a miracle given to us by God. We have no right to abort it by making it it easy to just take a pill. Life is not a bowl of cherries if an individual gets pregnant their choice is to keep the baby. They already made their own choice to have sex. It's not the baby's fault that it was conceived. We are not God to make that choice of getting rid of human life. We were made in the image and likeness of God. Please do not pass this bill SB1246. I choose life. God is our creator. He created each one of us in this world. We should all be grateful to him. Thank you. Esther

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:44:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill to fund abortion stop beating hearts in the Aloha State. How can the State of Hawaii whose motto is "The LIFE (OLA) of the LAND (AINA) is perpetuated in Righteousness!" fund stopping beginning of life harming the most vulnerable in their most helpless condition via a pharmaceutical agent? May God have mercy on us! We don't have money to feed the homeless and poor kids, and is there more for killing them before they are born? Why not use this appropriation money to pay for school lunches or fix roads and bring the children into the schools that are not able to have children because they are killed by abortion! Lord have mercy!

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:43:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am a long time resident of Hawaii, a long time taxpayer. I object to the uses of my taxes to purchase the pills described in the subject bill. There are healthy socially responsible alternatives to ending the life of the human being. For example there are 3000 couples every year waiting to adopt a child, to name one. I recommend the authors of this bill look for another, honorableway to use my funds to promote a healthy society in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:16:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Ziadie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1246.

according to the FDA website - reference, Mifepristone Drug Guide - there are significant side-effects using this drug. Primarily it can cause heavy bleeding, severe stomach cramps, a fever lasting over 4 days, and so on. The problem, this drug is available for home use with little physician oversight - no doctor visit requirement for a health examination to determine length of pregnancy (10 weeks or less)..... or the drug's interaction with other drugs consumed by the patient. It is unknown how often mifepristone side affects occur because there's no requirement for formal reporting if/when a female patient seeks medical care as a result of using this drug. This is so dangerous for women including minors who may be forced to take these drugs. They deserve to be treated with the dignity due to humans.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:58:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Ziadie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Reference: SB1246, Relating to Health Care. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill!!!

Thank you for considering my testimony on SB1246, Relating to Health Care.

The language used in this bill, uses a very hypothetically notion that the supply of mifepristone and misoprostol will be in short supply or outlawed in production due to the Federal Government ending the funding of abortions. This is comical in nature and downright misleading in focus.

First, these drugs are a money maker for the drug companies, they are not going to stop the drug's supply and the federal government is NOT going to prohibit manufacturing of these drugs; as a capital-based economy, demand always drives supply. Several states promote abortion-using drugs so demand will remain high....!

Second, isn't the Hawaiian state budget strapped, meaning, the legislature is looking for ways to reduce the budget and pull from one account to support expenditures to another account. How, with Medicaid claims exceeding funds, is the legislature going to allocate \$75,000 for mifepristone and/or misoprostol? Where are the funds coming from? How's recovery of Maui coming along?

Third, how many pills does \$75,000 buy? An internet search revealed the average cost of these two drugs is approximately \$0.05 apiece. As I understand, discounts based upon purchase quantity are also available bringing the cost down to around \$0.03 apiece. Taking these costs into consideration that means overtime, the state will buy and store 1,500,000 mifepristone pills. Referring to the Mifepristone drug guide available through the FDA, only one mifepristone

is needed along with a second drug to end an abortion. Is the Hawai'i state legislature supporting the ending of 1,500,000 pregnancies?

Fourth, what is the 'shelf-life' of mifepristone averages is about 5 years. Of course, as I understand it, mifepristone loses its potency (efficacy) over time.....implying that.....consuming mifepristone may or may not work to end a pregnancy as advertised; resulting in a medical emergency at best.

Fifth, according to the FDA website - reference, Mifepristone Drug Guide - there are significant side-effects using this drug. Primarily it can cause heavy bleeding, severe stomach cramps, a fever lasting over 4 days, and so on. The problem, this drug is available for home use with little physician oversight - no doctor visit requirement for a health examination to determine length of pregnancy (10 weeks or less)..... or the drug's interaction with other drugs consumed by the patient. It is unknown how often mifepristone side effects occur because there's no requirement for formal reporting if/when a female patient seeks medical care as a result of using this drug.

Sixth, the State of Hawai'i has enshrined abortion in its constitution. I do not agree, but it is the law. Also, the Federal Government and the Supreme Court have stipulated in the overturn of Roe v. Wade that 'each' state will determine its own abortion laws. So, why does Hawai'i need to purchase mifepristone?

To close, I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1246. If abortion is the 'front and center' of our legislative focus....than we have a moral leadership problem in Hawai'i and need to re-evaluate what the "Aloha State" really stands for.

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 4:47:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1246 and see no reason to stockpile a 1-year supply of anything, let alone mifepristone, which has nothing to do with reproductive health care, and everything to do with ending innocent children's lives and possibly mothers', since they are left to deal with their own potentially serious side effects alone at home, with no medical assistance. Not all taxpayers believe in abortion, and it isn't fair to use our money towards this kind of evil.

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 2:28:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Mifepristone is a poisonous drug designed to kill a fetus in a mother's womb. I am appalled that a state legislative body would take up such a bill. Not only do unborn babies die but the mother, who experiences her abortion in her own home, becomes vulnerable to the negative consequences that ensure: potential hemorrhaging and psychological, emotional, spiritual and physical trauma. This is a very bad bill and is against all that is beautiful and good of what it means to be a human being created by God.

I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to vote NO on this bill.

Respectfully,

Alfred Hagen

LATE

SB-1246

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:53:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Shorba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I testify in strong opposition to SB 1246. The drug, mifepristone, also known as RU-486, is an abortion drug, which not only ends the life of an innocent developing child in the womb, it's a health risk to the pregnant mother. Women need to be supported and cared for during pregnancy. Medical abortion (through the use of RU-486) is a painful, horrific experience for women. Please do not pass this legislation.

Mahalo,

Lisa Shorba

Resident of Honolulu, HI