



HCR 55/HR 57, URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO PRIORITIZE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN HAWAII'S REPRODUCTIVE CARE WORKFORCE, PARTICULARLY FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF THE STATE

MARCH 29, 2023 · HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. AMY PERRUSO

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HCR 55/HR 57, which urges the University of Hawai'i at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine to prioritize efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's reproductive care workforce, particularly for rural and remote areas of the state.

Reproductive care is an essential form of healthcare. In March of 1970, Hawai'i became the first state to legalize abortion, three years before the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision by the United States Supreme Court protected access to abortion nationwide. In so doing, the state recognized that preserving access to safe and legal reproductive care is a vital public health objective for the islands. Yet, Hawai'i's unique geography and high cost of living present barriers to obtaining reproductive care for potential patients. As of 2022, only three abortion providers exist in the islands and only Oahu and Maui host reproductive care clinics. According to Planned Parenthood, the number of abortion providers in the state has been on the decline since the 1990s.

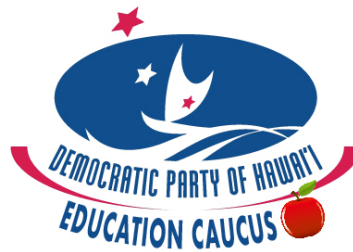
Moreover, studies show that access to abortion care is linked to financial well-being. According to The Turnaway Study conducted by Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at the University of California San Francisco, people who were denied access to an abortion

experienced an increase in household poverty lasting at least four years relative to those who received an abortion. Women who lacked access to reproductive care were also found to be less able to pay for basic living expenses, had lower credit scores, and had higher rates of debt and eviction than those with access to abortion care.

The U.S. Supreme Court's disastrous ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended the federal constitutional right to abortion care. In overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court erased nearly fifty years of legal precedent supporting the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, leading to a wave of abortion restrictions enacted by state legislatures across the country. The Court's decision disproportionately harms black, latino, indigenous, and other people of color, for whom access to healthcare and economic opportunities has historically been impeded by systemic racism.

In response to the Supreme Court's catastrophic ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, state policymakers must take action to uphold Hawai'i's legacy as a leader in advancing reproductive care and enact policies to strengthen reproductive rights in the islands. Accordingly, and for the sake of the sex trafficking survivors whom we have helped to obtain vital reproductive care, we support this resolution's call to fortify workforce development programs for practitioners of abortion services for rural and remote communities.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



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MARCH 29, 2023 · HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. AMY PERRUSO

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HCR 55/HR 57, which urges the University of Hawai'i at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine to prioritize efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's reproductive care workforce, particularly for rural and remote areas of the state.

Reproductive care is an essential form of healthcare. In March of 1970, Hawai'i became the first state to legalize abortion, three years before the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision by the United States Supreme Court protected access to abortion nationwide. In so doing, the state recognized that preserving access to safe and legal reproductive care is a vital public health objective for the islands. Yet, Hawai'i's unique geography and high cost of living present barriers to obtaining reproductive care for potential patients. As of 2022, only three abortion providers exist in the islands and only Oahu and Maui host reproductive care clinics. According to Planned Parenthood, the number of abortion providers in the state has been on the decline since the 1990s.

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Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
& TECHNOLOGY

RE: - HCR55/HR57 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA JOHN
A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO PRIORITIZE EFFORTS TO
STRENGTHEN HAWAII'S REPRODUCTIVE CARE WORKFORCE,
PARTICULARLY FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF THE STATE.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

JASON BRADSHAW, CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII LABOR CAUCUS

Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

**The Democratic Party of Hawaii Labor Caucus strongly supports HCR55/HR
57 urging the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of
Medicine to prioritize efforts to strengthen Hawaii's reproductive care
workforce, particularly for rural and remote areas of the state.**

Abortion rights are human rights. At a time when reproductive rights are being rolled
back by the United States Supreme Court, we must do all we can at the state level to
strengthen access to reproductive care services for our island home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

HR-57

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:45:49 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HR-57

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:56:28 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Wilbur	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of this resolution.