
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, reproductive care is an essential form of health
2 care; and

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4 WHEREAS, in March 1970, Hawaii became the first state to
5 legalize abortion, three years before the landmark *Roe v. Wade*
6 decision by the Supreme Court of the United States that
7 protected access to abortion nationwide; and

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9 WHEREAS, by legalizing abortion access, the State
10 recognized that preserving access to safe and legal reproductive
11 care is a vital public health objective for Hawaii; and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique geography and high cost of living
14 present barriers to obtaining reproductive care for patients and
15 potential patients; and

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17 WHEREAS, as of 2022, only a few abortion providers host
18 reproductive care clinics, which are generally found only in
19 Honolulu, on Maui, and in the Hilo area of Hawaii Island; and

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21 WHEREAS, according to data published by Planned Parenthood,
22 the number of abortion providers in the State has been on the
23 decline since the 1990s; and

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25 WHEREAS, studies show that access to abortion care is
26 linked to financial well-being; and

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28 WHEREAS, according to The Turnaway Study conducted by the
29 University of California San Francisco research group Advancing
30 New Standards in Reproductive Health, people who were denied
31 access to an abortion experienced an increase in household



1 poverty lasting at least four years relative to those who
2 received an abortion; and

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4 WHEREAS, the study also found that women who lacked access
5 to reproductive care were also found to be less able to pay for
6 basic living expenses and had lower credit scores and higher
7 rates of debt and eviction than those with access to abortion
8 care; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States' ruling in
11 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v.*
12 *Wade* and ended the federal constitutional right to abortion
13 care; and

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15 WHEREAS, in overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court of
16 the United States erased nearly fifty years of legal precedent
17 supporting the fundamental right to reproductive freedom,
18 leading to a wave of abortion restrictions enacted by state
19 legislatures across the country; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States' decision
22 disproportionately harms Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander,
23 Black, Latino, indigenous, and other people of color, for whom
24 access to health care and economic opportunities has
25 historically been impeded by systemic racism; and

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27 WHEREAS, in response to the ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson*
28 *Women's Health Organization*, the State must take action to
29 uphold Hawaii's legacy as a leader in advancing reproductive
30 care and enact policies to strengthen reproductive rights in
31 Hawaii; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2023, that the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A.
36 Burns School of Medicine is urged to prioritize efforts to
37 strengthen Hawaii's reproductive care workforce, particularly
38 for rural and remote areas of the State; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the John A. Burns School of
41 Medicine is encouraged to consider ways of increasing financial



