HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023 STATE OF HAWAII



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
20	interaction, on making and in one mille area of magain formal, and
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
24	
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

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poverty lasting at least four years relative to those who 1 received an abortion; and 2 3 WHEREAS, the study also found that women who lacked access 4 to reproductive care were also found to be less able to pay for 5 basic living expenses and had lower credit scores and higher 6 7 rates of debt and eviction than those with access to abortion 8 care; and 9 10 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States' ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned Roe v. 11 Wade and ended the federal constitutional right to abortion 12 13 care; and 14 15 WHEREAS, in overturning Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court of 16 the United States erased nearly fifty years of legal precedent supporting the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, 17 leading to a wave of abortion restrictions enacted by state 18 19 legislatures across the country; and 20 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States' decision 21 disproportionately harms Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, 22 Black, Latino, indigenous, and other people of color, for whom 23 access to health care and economic opportunities has 24 25 historically been impeded by systemic racism; and 26 27 WHEREAS, in response to the ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the State must take action to 28 29 uphold Hawaii's legacy as a leader in advancing reproductive care and enact policies to strengthen reproductive rights in 30 31 Hawaii; now, therefore, 32 33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 34 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. 35 36 Burns School of Medicine is urged to prioritize efforts to 37 strengthen Hawaii's reproductive care workforce, particularly for rural and remote areas of the State; and 38 39 40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the John A. Burns School of 41 Medicine is encouraged to consider ways of increasing financial

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1 assistance for students who are pursuing academic programs in fields related to reproductive care; and 2 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the John A. Burns School of 4 5 Medicine is requested to submit a report on its efforts to strengthen the State's reproductive care workforce to the 6 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of 7 the Regular Session of 2024, including any findings, 8 recommendations, and proposed legislation; and 9 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 11 12 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Broadband Coordinator, President of the University of 13 14 Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of 15 Hawaii, and Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. 16 Burns School of Medicine. 17 18 Kenippu 19 OFFERED BY:

MAR - 8 2023

