



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: 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.

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



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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

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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

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:28:47 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HCR55. Please pass this resolution.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. , Secretary/Board Member

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:40:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tuiaana Scanlan	IATSE 665	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, president of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. Local 665 strongly supports HCR 55 and HR 57. 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 of this resolution.

In Solidarity,

Tuia'ana Scanlan

President, IATSE 665

He/him/his

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.

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 11:25:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:33:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Bradshaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR 55 and HR 57. 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.

Jason Bradshaw

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:36:25 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many other and more urgent areas that require aid and support. I strongly oppose.

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:40:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in strong support HCR 55 and HR 57.

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.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:57:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a former seventeen year resident of rural Puna, Hawaii island, I strongly support HCR 55 and HR 57. 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. A classmate of mine from Pahoa High School had an illegal, back alley abortion, which resulted in a middle of the night visit to the emergency room. I do not want this to happen to anybody else, ever again.

Mahalo,

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:29:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Perruso and HET Committee,

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony.

I want to note that I am currently a session hire in the office of Representative Kapela.

I am in strong support of this resolution. Our healthcare system in this state is broken, and it is leaving the poorest and most isolated geographically, with a widening health gap. There are very few resources in outer islands and rural areas of the state where many residents, specifically Hawaiian folks live. These are the same areas that have limited access to water, transportation, education and often live in food deserts. All of these barriers to access also correlate with lower health and quality of life. As a publically funded university, UH should be equitable in who it serves. This opens an incredible opportunity to support medical students, and rural residents who lack access to healthcare, specifically reproductive health care which is a right for every person to have autonomy over their bodies. We know that rural and less resourced areas, also have higer pregnancy rates at young ages. This resolution can help steer resources to those most in need.

Mahalo,

Mariana Monasi

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:36:39 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fatima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:01:11 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 the resolution and encourage the committee to move it forward.

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:44:16 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

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:23:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaila Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a University of Hawai‘i at Manoa and being born and raised in Hawai‘i, I have a deep understanding of the need for reproductive healthcare across the state. During my academic journey at UH Manoa, I've had the privilege of being involved in reproductive advocacy. Throughout this chapter of my life, I have seen the direct need and impact that the lack of access has on our state and how it hurts the community that raised me. By providing additional support to John A. Burns School of Medicine to expand reproductive care and education, Hawai‘i can continue to be legislative leaders in healthcare.

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:23:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zahava Zaidoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As someone who lives in a rural location with no reproductive services available within an hour drive of my home, I stand in strong support of this resolution.

Please help make it easier to receive these life saving services for all people in Hawaii.

Mahalo!