



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President  
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2024, 10:30 AM, Conference Room 329

RE: **HCR6 – Urging the members of Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation to monitor *The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration* and take action to limit the case from further restricting access to safe abortion options.**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HCR6**. This resolution urges members of Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation to monitor *The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration* and take action to limit the case from further restricting access to safe abortion options.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai‘i’s community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai‘i’s only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare is committed to improving and advocating for access to care, including reproductive health care. We fully support this resolution because all people in Hawai‘i deserve timely, safe, and local access to health care, including abortion care. This measure would help to protect personal autonomy and access to care for the residents of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HCR6**.



March 19, 2024

TO: Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
FROM: American Association of University Women of Hawaii  
Hearing Date/Time/Room: Wed., March 20, 10:30 am, Room 329  
RE: Testimony in Support of HCR 6

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the committees:

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 6 Urging the Members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to Monitor *The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration* and Take Action to Limit the Case From Further Restricting Access to Safe Abortion Options. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in this case next week on March 26, 2024.

Medication abortion using Mifepristone is a safe and effective method of abortion care. A U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine would effectively ban the availability of Mifepristone nationwide, which would be a huge blow to the reproductive rights of women in Hawaii. We strongly support this resolution and believe that Hawaii's congressional delegation must urgently take action to protect access to this essential health care.

Thank you for support of this important resolution.

Sincerely,  
*/s/ Sonya Toma*  
Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii  
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

*The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership. AAUW's vision is Equity for All.*



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: HLT

MARCH 20, 2024

**HCR 6, URGING THE MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO MONITOR THE ALLIANCE FOR HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE V. U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND TAKE ACTION TO LIMIT THE CASE FROM FURTHER RESTRICTING ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION OPTIONS.**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports** HCR 6, which urges members of Hawaii's congressional delegation to monitor the *Alliance For Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration* and take action to limit the case from further restricting access to safe abortion options.

Reproductive care is an essential form of health care. In March 1970, Hawaii became the first state to legalize abortion, three years before the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision by the United States Supreme Court that protected access to abortion nationwide. By legalizing abortion access, the state recognized that preserving access to safe and legal reproductive care is a vital public health objective for the islands.

Furthermore, Hawaii's unique geography and high cost of living present barriers to obtaining reproductive care for patients and potential patients. As of 2022, only a few abortion providers host reproductive care clinics on two to three islands in the state. According to Planned Parenthood, the number of abortion providers in the State has been on the decline since the 1990s.

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. In addition, women who lacked access to reproductive care were also found to be less able to pay for basic living expenses and had lower credit scores and higher rates of debt and eviction than those with access to abortion care.

The United States Supreme Court's 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 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 Supreme Court's decision disproportionately harmed Black, Latino, indigenous, and other people of color, for whom access to health care and economic opportunities have historically been impeded by systemic racism.

Sadly, anti-abortion activists are currently attempting to impose attempt to impose a nationwide ban on mifepristone, one of two medications in a regimen that accounts for more than half the abortions in the United States, as well as other forms of contraception. In August of 2023, a federal appeals court ruled that mifepristone should not be prescribed past seven weeks of pregnancy or via telemedicine. Numerous states have also introduced legislation to restrict access to mifepristone and contraception. If implemented, these restrictions may apply even in states where abortion is legal.

Following the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling, it is imperative for our state to implement proactive measures to protect access to reproductive care. In the face of a growing and persistent threat to reproductive care, we must preserve the islands' long legacy of leading the nation on this issue.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Kris Coffield**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*  
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**Abby Simmons**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*  
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**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:03:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution and hope you will do the same

Mahalo

Deb Nehmad

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:33:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in strong support of HCR6 to protect access to safe abortion.

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:40:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGL SUPPORT - Patti Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:21:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Shimei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN SUPPORT



**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:27:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am a retired APRN and reside in Kaneohe. I practiced in federally funded community health centers in Hawaii for 30 years. This bill will ensure that medication for termination of pregnancy is available in Hawaii. We must protect reproductive right. Please vote yes. Mahalo.

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday March 20, 2024, 10:30am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 329 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports resolution HR1/HCR5 relating to ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION OPTIONS.

Dear Chairs Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi and Rep. Darius K. Kila, and members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, **strongly** supports resolution HCR6 relating to ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION OPTIONS.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of resolution HCR6.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 2:29:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Rault	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN and a Complex Family Planning Fellow. Complex Family Planning is a branch of OBGYN focused on providing abortion and contraceptive care. As an abortion provider in Hawaii, I urge you to pass this resolution. Hawaii is a unique state due to the island make up. Currently, at our clinic, about 25% of the abortions we provide are through telemedicine. This means we provide safe abortion care to patients on other islands and mail mifepristone (and misoprostol) medications to the patients. This saves significant hassle for the patients on these other islands (many of which do not have any abortion providers). It also decreases insurance costs - flights to Oahu, transportation on Oahu. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that mifepristone and misoprostol are safe medications for abortion care. If the Supreme Court does rule to go back to the 2016 FDA labeling, mifepristone would be required to be dispensed in the doctors office in person to the patient. This would limit the 25% of our abortion visits from telemedicine to in person. This would greatly impact the reproductive access and medical care we provide to our patients.

Secondly, if the supreme court goes back to the 2016 ruling, they would change the FDA approval of mifepristone dosing from the current approval of 200 mg to a higher dose (600 mg). The current regimen has been researched and is evidenced based as the dose that is both effective and safe for medication abortions. We should not go back to a higher dose that is unnecessary.

Protecting Hawaii from the actions from the outcome of the Alliance of Hippocratic Medicine v US FDA is imperative to ensure access to safe and effective abortion care.

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS  
03-20-24

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

ON

HCR 6 URGING THE MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL  
DELEGATION TO MONITOR THE ALLIANCE FOR  
HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE V. U.S. FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION AND TAKE ACTION TO LIMIT THE CASE  
FROM FURTHER RESTRICTING ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION OPTIONS.

by  
Scott W. Smart

Chairman Au Belatti and members of the House Committee on HLT:

I am testifying STRONGLY AGAINST HCR 6

By definition, all abortions via any method result in the taking of a human life. As such, NO abortion method or option can be deemed "safe". Our federal representatives should take the lead in reducing the harm from abortion.

/s/

Scott W. Smart  
94-210 Kakaili Pl  
Mililani, HI 96789  
(808) 627-1220

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:56:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/20/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hippocratic Oath, which is taken by physicians states, "*Primum non nocere*" or "**First do no harm**" or in other translations: "**I will abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm**".

*Abortion is both wrongdoing and harm*, and as such, this proposal is both wrong and harmful as it promotes and supports a culture of death which is wrong and harmful for *all* of us.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HCR6, and you should as well if you truly care about the people you serve.



March 20, 2024

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair  
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

RE: **HCR 6: URGING THE MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO MONITOR THE ALLIANCE FOR HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE V. U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND TAKE ACTION TO LIMIT THE CASE FROM FURTHER RESTRICTING ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION OPTIONS.**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of HCR 6 which requests that Hawaii's congressional delegation monitor the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) case in the U.S. Supreme Court and take action to limit the case from further restricting access to safe abortion options. The Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on the case on March 26, 2024.

This challenge by anti-abortion advocates challenges the FDA's approval of an abortion drug places medication abortion at risk across the U.S. Medication abortion is the most commonly used method of abortion in the U.S., accounting for more than half of all abortions.<sup>1</sup>

Mifepristone was first approved by the FDA in 2000. Since then, it has established a well-documented safety record. Leading medical and scientific organizations such as the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Family Physicians recognize medication abortion care as safe and effective.

We believe that it is critical that access to medication abortion be available so that health care providers have an additional method of providing a safe and effective abortion treatment to their patients.

This is a priority issue for the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus. The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls.

We respectfully request that the Committee pass this resolution to show support for access to reproductive care. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher Institute, <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortion>, February 24, 2022.