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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that gender equality in  
2 Hawaii is not achievable without an investment in reproductive  
3 health care infrastructure, which includes the policies,  
4 programs, and services needed for access and destigmatization.  
5 Although the State protects reproductive health care rights,  
6 hundreds of thousands of women and pregnant persons on neighbor  
7 islands lack equal access to reproductive health care. Most  
8 reproductive health care providers are located on the island of  
9 Oahu, with some additional providers on Maui and Hawaii. Women  
10 and pregnant persons on islands with limited or no reproductive  
11 health care access and who need care are required to travel or  
12 to seek assistance via telehealth. The legislature's intent is  
13 to ensure access to reproductive health care on all major  
14 islands.

15           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
16 provide moneys for a reproductive health care access coordinator



1 to oversee efforts to provide all women and pregnant persons in  
2 the State with equitable access to reproductive health care.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART . OFFICE OF THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS  
7 COORDINATOR

8 §346- Office of the reproductive health care access  
9 coordinator; established. (a) There is established the office  
10 of the reproductive health care access coordinator, to be placed  
11 within the department of human services for administrative  
12 purposes.

13 (b) The office shall be headed by a reproductive health  
14 care access coordinator who shall be appointed by the director  
15 of human services without regard to chapters 76 and 89. The  
16 coordinator shall appoint one administrative staff member,  
17 within available appropriations, and without regard to chapters  
18 76 and 89.

19 (c) The coordinator shall:  
20 (1) Develop and administer a training program for eligible  
21 licensed healthcare professionals to facilitate



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- 1 reproductive health care on every permanently  
2 populated island in the State;
- 3 (2) Develop and administer for eligible licensed  
4 healthcare professionals and their care teams a  
5 continuing education program on best practices for  
6 reproductive health care and patient management;
- 7 (3) Subsidize the cost of telehealth technology for  
8 reproductive health care providers in the State who  
9 demonstrate financial need;
- 10 (4) Coordinate and fund reproductive health care  
11 providers' reasonable and necessary travel expenses so  
12 that providers may provide rural and medically  
13 underserved areas of neighbor islands with  
14 reproductive health care and follow-up care;
- 15 (5) Establish and administer clinics in medically  
16 underserved areas of neighbor islands to provide  
17 reproductive health care services and information on  
18 reproductive health;
- 19 (6) Identify state laws, rules, or administrative  
20 practices that are barriers to the provision of  
21 effective reproductive health care; and



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1           (7) Submit a report of the coordinator's findings and  
2           recommendations, including any proposed legislation,  
3           to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
4           the convening of each regular session."

5           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2024-2025 to establish and fund the office of the  
10 reproductive health care access coordinator, including:

- 11           (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) coordinator  
12           position;
- 13           (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) administrative  
14           position;
- 15           (3) Reasonable and necessary travel expenses for the  
16           office staff and for reproductive health care  
17           providers;
- 18           (4) The subsidization of telehealth technology costs for  
19           reproductive health care providers; and
- 20           (5) Any other costs associated with implementing section 2  
21           of this Act.



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1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
2 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
4 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Allen A. Pelletti*

JAN 25 2023



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**Report Title:**

DHS; Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator;  
Reproductive Health Care; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates moneys for the Office of the  
Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator within the  
Department of Human Services for administrative purposes.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

