

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REDUCE THE USE OF  
DISPOSABLE SURGICAL EQUIPMENT AND ADOPT SUSTAINABLE  
PRACTICES IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
FOLLOWING EXAMPLES SET BY CALIFORNIA AND JAPAN.

1           WHEREAS, the State recognizes the environmental and  
2 economic impacts associated with the excessive use of disposable  
3 surgical equipment; and  
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5           WHEREAS, hospitals and health care facilities generate  
6 significant medical waste that often consists of single-use  
7 surgical instruments and supplies and contributes to landfill  
8 overflow and environmental pollution; and  
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10          WHEREAS, California has implemented programs that encourage  
11 the use of reprocessed and sterilized surgical instruments,  
12 reducing medical waste and lowering costs for health care  
13 facilities; and  
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15          WHEREAS, Japan has successfully adopted advanced  
16 sterilization and recycling techniques to extend the lifespan of  
17 surgical instruments while maintaining the highest standards of  
18 patient safety and infection control; and  
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20          WHEREAS, reducing the reliance on disposable surgical  
21 equipment in the State aligns with the State's commitment to  
22 sustainability and environmental stewardship; and  
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24          WHEREAS, adopting the use of reusable and reprocessed  
25 surgical equipment can lead to substantial cost savings for  
26 health care institutions while maintaining high-quality patient  
27 care; now, therefore,  
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29          BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
31 that the Department of Health is requested to reduce the use of  
32 disposable surgical equipment and adopt sustainable practices in  
33 the provision of health care services following examples set by  
34 California and Japan; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
3 urged to develop guidelines and initiatives aimed at reducing  
4 the use of disposable surgical equipment in health care  
5 facilities; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hospitals and medical centers  
8 in the State are encouraged to explore partnerships with  
9 companies specializing in medical equipment sterilization and  
10 reprocessing; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
13 requested to submit a report detailing the feasibility,  
14 potential cost savings, and environmental benefits of reducing  
15 disposable surgical equipment usage to the Legislature no later  
16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
17 of 2026; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of  
21 Health.  
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23  
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OFFERED BY: 

