
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENCOURAGE REDUCTIONS IN THE USE OF DISPOSABLE SURGICAL EQUIPMENT AND ADOPTION OF 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

4
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

9
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

14
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

19
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

23
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,

28
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 encourage
32 reductions in the use of disposable surgical equipment and



1 adoption of sustainable practices in the provision of health
2 care services following examples set by California and Japan;
3 and

4
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
6 urged to develop guidelines and initiatives aimed at reducing
7 the use of disposable surgical equipment in health care
8 facilities; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hospitals and medical centers
11 in the State are encouraged to explore partnerships with
12 companies specializing in medical equipment sterilization and
13 reprocessing; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
16 requested to submit a report detailing the feasibility,
17 potential cost savings, and environmental benefits of reducing
18 disposable surgical equipment usage to the Legislature no later
19 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
20 of 2026; and

21
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
24 Health.

