

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1542

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 2025

RE: S.R. No. 174
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.R. No. 174 entitled:

"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,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request 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.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition, Climate Protectors Hawai'i, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that there are opportunities for the Department of Health to reduce the ecological footprint of the health care sector in the State, especially in regard to medical waste. Your Committee further finds that disposable surgical equipment contributes significantly to medical waste, much of which ends up in landfills or incinerators, exacerbating the State's waste management challenges. Your Committee notes that



California has already made strides toward waste reduction in health care facilities through initiatives such as reusable surgical gowns and instruments, which have reduced overall waste and saved costs in the long term. Your Committee further notes that Japan has implemented similar practices, integrating sterilization technology to safely reuse medical equipment, setting an example of sustainability in health care. This measure promotes sustainability initiatives in the State's health care sector by encouraging reductions in medical waste and adoption of sustainable practices in the provision of health care services.

Your Committee notes the concern raised in testimony that the Department of Health alone cannot be expected to reduce the use of disposable surgical equipment and adopt sustainable practices in the provision of health care services in the State. Therefore, there is a need to amend this measure to address this concern.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Department of Health is requested 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; and
- (2) Amending its title accordingly.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 174, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 174, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



