
HOUSE 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 House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2025, that the Department of Health is requested to reduce
32 the use of disposable surgical equipment and adopt sustainable
33 practices in the provision of health care services following
34 examples set by 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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OFFERED BY: SC

MAR - 7 2025

