

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
HAWAII TO ESTABLISH ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AS A FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHT.

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

SECTION 1. Article I of the Constitution of the State of
Hawaii is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
designated and to read as follows:

"RIGHT TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Section . It shall be the obligation of the State to
ensure that every resident of the State has access to cost-
effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as
a fundamental right. This obligation shall be balanced against
the public interest in funding public schools and other
essential public services. Any remedy arising from an action to
enforce this section shall not interfere with the balance
described in this section."

SECTION 2. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
be as follows:

"Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended
to make it the obligation of the State to ensure that every



1 resident of Hawaii has access to cost-effective, clinically
2 appropriate, and affordable health care as a fundamental right;
3 provided that this obligation is balanced against the public
4 interest in funding public schools and other essential public
5 services, and that any remedy to enforce this obligation shall
6 not interfere with this balance?"

7 SECTION 3. New constitutional material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This amendment shall take effect upon
9 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
10 the State of Hawaii.

11
INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 2465

Report Title:

Constitutional Amendment; Affordable Health Care; Fundamental Right

Description:

Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to establish access to affordable health care as a fundamental right, subject to limitations balancing other essential public services.

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