

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2248-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 24, 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 7

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 7
entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE
REQUIREMENT THAT HOSPITALS PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING EMERGENCY CARE
TO PREGNANT PEOPLE, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE AND ABORTION
SERVICES, WHEN SUCH CARE IS MEDICALLY NECESSARY TO STABILIZE
A PATIENT UNDER THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND ACTIVE
LABOR ACT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to affirm and support the
requirement that hospitals provide life-saving emergency care to
pregnant people, including reproductive and abortion services,
when such care is medically necessary to stabilize a patient under
the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; AAUW of
Hawai'i; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Healthcare Association of
Hawaii; Hawai'i Women Lawyers; and one individual. Your Committee
received testimony in opposition to this measure from Hawai'i
Family Forum.

Your Committee finds that timely access to life-saving
emergency medical care for pregnant patients is essential to
protecting patient health and preventing serious injury or death.

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Your Committee further finds that the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act has long been interpreted as requiring hospitals to provide stabilizing treatment, including reproductive and abortion services when medically necessary. However, recent changes in federal guidance have created confusion regarding the provision of emergency reproductive and abortive services and have resulted in physicians in other states reporting that patients are experiencing restricted and delayed treatment. These delays often occur because additional administrative, legal, or institutional steps are required before treatment can be provided, even in urgent situations, and can lead to increased morbidity and the need for more invasive interventions and can cause otherwise preventable complications. Your Committee believes that affirming and supporting Hawaii's long-standing compliance with these standards reinforces access to emergency care, promotes public health, and upholds patient safety statewide.

Your Committee notes that during discussions at the public hearing on this measure, a suggestion was made to amend the phrase "pregnant people" to read "pregnant women". However, your Committee believes that the phrase "pregnant people" is a more appropriate term, as it more accurately reflects the State's commitment to inclusivity and respect for Hawaii's diverse population.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 7 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREG TARAYAMA, Chair



