



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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March 30, 2026

LATE

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **SCR 45 – Relating to Mifepristone**

HEARING: Monday, March 30, 2026 @ 1:07 am; Conference Room 225

POSITION: SUPPORT INTENT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SRC 45 could help protect continued access to mifepristone in Hawai'i by urging the Department of Health to coordinate a three-year stockpile of the medication. Given political and ideological threats to access to reproductive rights across the country at this time, this resolution makes good sense. We defer, however, to DOH on costs and implementation issues of fulfilling this intent.

Thank you for hearing this measure.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



Chair San Buenaventura
Vice Chair McKelvey
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Monday, March 30, 2026
1:07 PM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SR44 AND SCR45 URGING THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COORDINATE THE STOCKPILING OF A
THREE-YEAR SUPPLY OF MIFEPRISTONE.**

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Public Health legislative committee is in **strong support** of **SR44 and SCR45**.

SR44 and SCR45 urges the Department of Health to create a three-year stockpile of the abortifacient Mifepristone, expanding on previous iterations of the stockpile which were of a one-year supply.

In Hawai‘i, those under the age of 29 make up approximately 64%¹ of those who seek and receive abortions in the State. Hawai‘i has always stood as a stalwart defender of reproductive

¹ <https://www.kff.org/interactive/womens-health-profiles/hawaii/abortion-statistics/>

rights, however in-person abortion care is only available on the islands of Maui and O‘ahu². Young people in particular face disproportionate barriers to accessing in-person abortion care due to the high cost of inter-island travel, limited access to transportation, and the unique challenge of balancing school or work obligations. For those who rely on family support or live in rural communities, travelling to O‘ahu or Maui is not a feasible option to receive healthcare.

Medication abortion, including the use of Mifepristone³, is a safe and effective option that can significantly reduce these barriers in accessibility. It allows individuals to access care earlier in pregnancy and , in many cases, without the need for in-person procedures. For young people, this can be the difference between being able to access safe and legal abortion care or being forced to carry an unintended or unwanted pregnancy.

Establishing a three-year stockpile of Mifepristone is a proactive step to ensure the continuity of care in the face of a changing national legal landscape and potential disruptions to the medication supply chain. Young people, who already face heightened restrictions and barriers to accessing care, are especially vulnerable to any sudden shortages or disruptions.

Delays in accessing abortion care can lead to increased medical risk, negative mental health outcomes⁴, and long-term impacts on education attainment⁵—outcomes that directly and disproportionately impact young people. Ensuring a robust and reliable supply of Mifepristone is essential to protecting the health, autonomy, and future opportunities of young people across Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i has consistently affirmed its commitment to protecting bodily autonomy and access to safe and legal health care services. Individuals should not face diminished access to abortion

²

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6037826/#:~:text=Geographic%20Access%20Barriers.travel%20to%20obtain%20abortion%20care>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/search/research-news/18556/>

⁴

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10966177/#:~:text=Obstacles%20causing%20delays%20in%20accessing,harm%20for%20people%20seeking%20abortion>

⁵

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/14837/trapd-teens-impacts-of-abortion-provider-regulations-on-fertility-education>

services due to where they live, their socioeconomic status, or ability to obtain transportation.
For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to **PASS SR44 and SCR45.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com



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Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 28, 2026

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

Re: Support for SCR 45/SR 44, Urging The Department Of Health To
Coordinate The Stockpiling Of A Three-year Supply Of Mifepristone.

Hrg: March 30, 2026, 1:07 PM, Conference Room 225

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ is in **support of SCR 45/SR 44**, urging the Department of Health to coordinate the stockpiling of a three-year supply of Mifepristone.

A Safe Medication

Mifepristone is one of the most extensively studied medications in modern medicine and has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for more than two decades. The FDA and numerous peer-reviewed studies have consistently found the medication to be safe and effective, with a safety profile that compares favorably to commonly used medications.²

Mifepristone is used not only for abortion care, but also for the management of miscarriage and other pregnancy-related medical conditions, making it an essential medication for reproductive health care and emergency obstetric care. Medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, recognize medication abortion using Mifepristone as safe, effective, and standard medical practice supported by decades of research and clinical use.³

Federal Uncertainty

Access to Mifepristone has been the subject of ongoing federal litigation and policy uncertainty, and legal scholars and public health experts have warned that changes in federal policy or supply chain disruptions could affect access to the medication even in states where abortion remains legal.⁴

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² [The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States](#), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2018.

³ [Early Pregnancy Loss Practice Bulletin](#), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Reaffirmed 2025.

⁴ [Medication Abortion Policy Landscape](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, March 2024.



Because Hawai'i is geographically isolated and heavily dependent on imported medical supplies, maintaining a stockpile of essential medications is an essential public health strategy. Stockpiling critical medications is already a common practice for vaccines, emergency medications, and disaster preparedness supplies, and applying the same preparedness framework to essential reproductive health medications is consistent with public health planning and health system resilience.⁵

Protecting Public Access

Medication abortion now accounts for a significant portion of abortion care in the United States and is particularly important for patients in rural areas or isolated communities with limited provider access. Telemedicine medication abortion has been shown to be safe, effective, and acceptable to patients, and expands access to care for people in remote or underserved areas.

Legal scholars have noted that Mifepristone remains approved under federal law as a safe and effective medication, and federal drug approval authority rests with the FDA, which evaluates drug safety based on scientific evidence.⁶ Ensuring continued access to Mifepristone protects patient health and ensures that Hawai'i's health care system remains prepared for supply disruptions or legal changes that could affect access to essential reproductive care medications.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge the legislature to adopt this resolution.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kris Coffield'.

Kris Coffield
Policy and Advocacy Associate

⁵ [States Prepare for Threats to Abortion Access by Stockpiling Mifepristone and Misoprostol](#), Center for American Progress, Kate Kelly, December 2024.

⁶ [25 Years After Its FDA Approval, Mifepristone is Still Safe and Effective](#), Planned Parenthood, September 2025.

SCR-45

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 2:53:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Komal Soin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support. We recently had trouble with supply due to not being able to get from mainland.
Would support for supply to be on island.

LATE

SCR-45

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 1:14:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Opposed to SCR45 & SR44

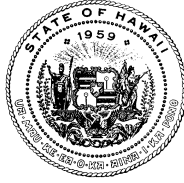
Although I'm Opposed to all surgical & chemical abortions, I request that you only ask DOH to obtain a 2 yr supply of mifepristone instead of 3, so don't use as much taxpayer \$\$ for this.

Are you aware of chemical abortion risks: 4 x higher risk of complications than surgical. 22 x greater rate of serious complications than stated on the label. 11% women experience serious adverse health event such as infection, sepsis, hemorrhage, affecting tens of thousands of women; 26 deaths 500% increase in Emergency Room visits. Only ultrasound can detect ectopic pregnancy--mifepristone can't treat ectopic, & can mask tubal rupture--lead to severe bleeding & death!!!

Please advocate for more safety precautions before allowing women to obtain mifepristone: in-person visit, ultrasound, inform patient of all possible harmful side effects & complications

Oppose SCR45 & SR44

Mahalo



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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.C.R. 45/S.R. 44
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COORDINATE
THE STOCKPILING OF A THREE-YEAR SUPPLY OF MIFEPRISTONE**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 30, 2026, 1:07 pm, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Through Act 250 of June 30, 2025, the Department of Health (DOH) now
- 2 receives a recurring annual appropriation of \$200,000 for the purchase of family planning
- 3 medication.
- 4 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Family Health Services Division (FHSD) provides the following
- 6 testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 7 The Department understands the importance of this measure, which seeks to provide
- 8 equitable and accessible family planning services statewide by coordinating a three-year supply
- 9 of mifepristone. Currently, the Department contracts mifepristone procurement, storage, and
- 10 distribution with multiple providers across the state, ensuring a supply of mifepristone in each
- 11 county and the ability to distribute medications to all islands. The current supply has an
- 12 expiration date of 2029.
- 13 The Department appreciates the annual family planning medication appropriation approved by
- 14 the Legislature in 2025, and we are committed to ensuring an ongoing three-year supply of
- 15 mifepristone as part of our statewide family planning services program.
- 16 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.