
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING ALL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION ON DEMAND TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL
ASSAULT OR RAPE.

1 WHEREAS, when a victim of violent crime that results in
2 physical injury seeks medical attention, the health care system
3 should do everything possible to respond and administer
4 medically necessary care; and
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6 WHEREAS, sexual assault, or rape, is a crime that is
7 violent, traumatic, and the ultimate, intimate violation in
8 which a woman loses all sense of personal control, decision-
9 making, and dignity, and in which she is physically and
10 psychologically ripped apart; and
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12 WHEREAS, healers are responsible for providing victims with
13 information regarding procedures being followed to ease pain,
14 information critical to decisions regarding injuries,
15 information regarding the risks of sexually transmitted disease,
16 and honest information about the risks of pregnancy and
17 emergency contraception; and
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19 WHEREAS, according to the American College of Obstetricians
20 and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, and the
21 American College of Emergency Physicians, the accepted standard
22 of care for victims of sexual assault includes the provision of
23 emergency contraception, if desired; and
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25 WHEREAS, across the nation, more than four hundred
26 Catholic, nonprofit hospitals dispense emergency contraception
27 to rape victims; and
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29 WHEREAS, Catholic health care policy as published in
30 *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care*
31 *Services, Fourth Edition* developed by the Committee on Doctrine
32 of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and approved as
33 the national code by the full body of bishops states that a
34 person who is the victim of sexual assault should receive
35 compassionate health care that includes accurate medical

1 information and the ability to defend herself against a
2 potential conception from the sexual assault; and
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4 WHEREAS, rape victims and victims of sexual assault deserve
5 the fullest and best care available according to the standards
6 set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
7 and other professional medical groups; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, in
11 order to assure that victims of rape and sexual assault receive
12 the fullest and best care available, urges all hospital
13 emergency rooms in the State to adhere to the accepted standard
14 of care for victims of rape and sexual assault, including the
15 administration of emergency contraception without delay and
16 without adding insult to injury by requiring patient transfer to
17 another institution; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hospitals in the State are
20 urged to ensure that all hospital emergency personnel are
21 properly trained in handling the special needs of rape victims
22 including the education and provision of emergency contraceptive
23 services; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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