

**Testimony of the Board of Nursing**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Friday, March 19, 2021  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 576, H.D. 3, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board supports this bill, which authorizes advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to perform medication or aspiration abortions.

APRNs are recognized as primary care providers who may practice independently based on their practice specialty, including women's health or as a certified nurse midwife. An APRN's education and training include, but are not limited to, a graduate-level degree in nursing and national certification that is specific to the APRN's practice specialty, in accordance with nationally recognized standards of practice. The Board recognizes that this measure would provide greater access to care for women throughout the State.

For the Committee's information, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Guttmacher Institute both report that California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Virginia, Vermont, and West Virginia allow certain advanced practice clinicians to independently provide medication or aspiration abortions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Hawai'i

Committee: Committee on Health  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 19, 2021, 9:30 A.M.  
Place: Via videoconference  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of H.B. 576, H.D. 3, Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker, and committee members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") **writes in support of H.B. 576, H.D. 3**, which removes the physician-only barrier and allows qualified licensed advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to provide early in-clinic abortion care. We respectfully request that the Committees pass this measure as-is.

Hawai'i's current law requiring early in-clinic abortions to be provided by a physician places significant — sometimes, insurmountable — barriers in the path of those who wish to terminate their pregnancy. The American Public Health Association (APHA) condemns physician-only laws as “ideologically based statutes [that] contradict evidence” because qualified licensed providers’ roles and experiences already “includes management of conditions and procedures significantly more complex than...[in-clinic] abortion.”<sup>1</sup> Because this law imposes serious and significant burdens on abortion access and unjustifiably singles out qualified licensed health providers who wish to provide abortion care for differential and unfavorable treatment, it raises serious constitutional questions under Hawai'i's own state constitution,<sup>2</sup> and renders the state vulnerable to constitutional challenges.

This limit on who may perform abortion procedures is a burden in and of itself, but is exacerbated by Hawai'i's current physician shortage and its geography as an island state. Currently, people on Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, and the West side of Hawai'i do not have access to

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<sup>1</sup> American Public Health Association, *Provision of Abortion Care by Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants*, Policy No. 20112 (2011), <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/28/16/00/provision-of-abortion-care-by-advanced-practice-nurses-and-physician-assistants>.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Haw. Const. art. I, § 6 (right to privacy); Haw. Const. art. I, § 5 (right to equal protection).

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a local provider, forcing many to fly to another island to seek care. In addition to incurring the high cost of interisland travel, a person may also need to take time off from work, arrange childcare, and book lodging just to see their provider. In 2018, more than ten percent of Planned Parenthood’s abortion patients in Hawai‘i had to travel between islands to obtain care. COVID-19 has worsened these financial and logistical barriers to care, and has made travel to access abortion care more difficult, expensive, and dangerous given the potential for COVID-19 exposure. Moreover, all of these harms have a disproportionate impact on individuals who already face systemic barriers to care, including Black and Indigenous people and other people of color, people with low incomes, survivors of intimate partner violence, young people, and people who live in geographically isolated areas.

The evidence clearly shows that APRNs can safely provide abortion care,<sup>3</sup> and can do so outside of a hospital setting. Hawai‘i’s physician-only abortion requirement thus provides no health or medical benefit to pregnant people and yet imposes serious barriers on their access to abortion care, a constitutionally protected, fundamental right.

Indeed, Hawai‘i’s Constitution recognizes the right to privacy, which includes the right to make personal decisions about procreation,<sup>4</sup> and mandates that this right not being infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.<sup>5</sup> Because Hawai‘i’s physician-only abortion requirement imposes significant and, for some, insurmountable burdens on access to abortion care without serving any health or safety related interest or any asserted compelling state interest, **we believe that Hawai‘i’s law does not survive this test and violates state and federal law.** Accordingly, failure to pass this measure risks exposing the state to potential litigation similar to a lawsuit that was brought in Maine but was ultimately resolved by the enactment of legislation similar to H.B. 576.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Nat’l Academies of Sciences, Eng’g, & Med., *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States (Abortion Care)* 159 (2018).

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., *State v. Mueller*, 66 Haw. 616, 627, 671 P.2d 1351, 1359 (1983) (citing *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 152-53 (1973)).

<sup>5</sup> Haw. Const. art. I, § 6.

<sup>6</sup> *Jenkins v. Lynch*, Case No. 2:17-cv-00366-NT, (D. Me.) (filed September 20, 2017); Jacey Fortin, “Maine Abortion Law Lets Nurse Practitioners and Others Perform Procedure, New York Times, June 10, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/10/us/maine-abortion-bill.html>.

ACLU of Hawai'i testimony in support of H.B. 576, H.D. 3  
March 19, 2021  
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Hawai'i has long stood as a leader in reproductive freedom, as many states continue to battle aggressive, well-organized efforts to shutter their remaining clinics. We must continue to lead by passing H.B. 576 and removing this outdated, unnecessary, and harmful barrier to care.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request that the Committees pass this measure as-is. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Mandy Fernandes  
Policy Director  
ACLU of Hawai'i

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.*

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*American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Hawai'i, Guam & American Samoa Section*

TO: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 19, 2021

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG  
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair

**Re: HB 576\_HD3 – Relating to Health Care**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) represents more than 200 obstetrician-gynecologist physicians in our state, and we support HB 576 which will allow trained advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to provide aspiration abortions. APRNs are integral to providing equitable women's healthcare in Hawai'i. This bill has several benefits for the women of Hawai'i:

- As the majority of aspiration abortions take place in the first trimester, this bill would significantly improve access to comprehensive reproductive care for women in Hawai'i, especially for those in rural areas of our state and those not on Oahu.
- Many women routinely receive well-woman care from an APRN. This bill would give those women the option to maintain continuity of care for their aspiration abortions. This continuity may help women avoid the burden of travel and additional clinic appointments to see a physician for these same services.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the consequences of not having clinicians who provide abortions on each island is even more detrimental, as traveling to other islands for care puts patients at higher risk for COVID-19 exposure. By allowing APRNs to provide aspiration abortions, fewer patients may need to travel for care.

APRNs already provide advanced women's healthcare services in clinics throughout Hawai'i, and they perform many similar procedures, such as endometrial biopsies and intrauterine system insertions. Not only have many of us worked with APRNs and can attest to their competency and skill, the safety of trained clinicians performing aspiration abortions has been demonstrated.<sup>1</sup> This conclusion was recently confirmed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a non-partisan source that provides objective assessments of science and technology.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Weitz TA, Taylor D, Desai S, et al. Safety of aspiration abortion performed by nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants under a California legal waiver. *Am J Public Health.* 2013;103(3):454-461.

<sup>2</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018). *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Retrieved 24 February 2019, from <https://www.nap.edu/24950>

After a successful multi-year pilot program in which APRNs, PAs, and certified nurse-midwives performed over 5,000 aspiration abortions with similar outcomes to physicians performing this procedure and no increase in complications, California passed a similar law, allowing aspiration abortions to be performed by APRNs, PAs, and CNMs.<sup>3</sup> This expansion of the provider pool for aspiration abortions is supported by the national American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.<sup>4</sup>

Many of our members can tell you countless stories of our patients who have struggled to access abortion care, especially from neighbor islands. Our state recognized in 1970 that access to abortion care was critical to women's health and women's abilities to participate in and contribute to their communities. Yet, for many women across the state, access to this care is not a reality – this was made especially stark during the last year.

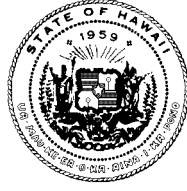
HI ACOG supports evidence-based legislation such as HB 576 that would increase access to comprehensive women's healthcare.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>3</sup> California Business and Professions Code § 2725.4

<sup>4</sup> Increasing Access to Abortion: ACOG Committee Opinion, Number 815. Obstet Gynecol. 2020 Dec;136(6):e107-e115.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**  
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

In support of HB576 HD3 with amendments

Dear Chairs Baker and Keohokalole and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HB576 HD3 as an urgent pandemic response and long-term gender equality measure, and requests that the bill be amended to include physicians assistants as qualified health care providers authorized to perform aspiration abortion.

The government should not continue to create inhumane conditions that force women in Hawai‘i to have children when they are not ready or able to do so.

In 1970, Hawai‘i became the first state to legalize abortion outside of rape, incest or when the pregnancy would impair a woman’s physical or mental health. Today, Hawai‘i has joined more anti-women states in restricting qualified, licensed clinicians from performing abortions. Due to the physician-only abortion restriction under state law, the full right to abortion in Hawai‘i remains illusory.

Geographical barriers to abortion access are compounded by both Hawai‘i’s doctor shortage and the current law, which prohibits licensed, qualified health care professionals from providing aspiration abortion. Aspiration abortion, also referred to as surgical abortion, remains the most common procedure for terminating a pregnancy in the first trimester. The Commission argues that the state has no compelling interest in restricting trained clinicians from providing aspiration abortions.

Further, HB576 HD3 is a critical piece of crisis response to the covid-19 pandemic. This measure would have a profound impact on women in rural and medically underserved communities in our state where abortion services are scarce. Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass HB576 HD3 with the requested amendment.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus







**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
and  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Friday, March 19, 2021  
9:30 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**By  
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC  
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Comments on HB 576, HD3**

Chairs Keohokalole and Baker, Vice Chairs Baker and Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, thank you for the opportunity for the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to provide Comments on Section 2 and 4 as they relate to nurses. This bill, if enacted, authorizes advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to perform aspiration abortions.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses include Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Clinical Registered Nurse Anesthetists. The number of APRNs more than doubled in Hawai'i between 2005 and 2017, with continued growth since that period. At this time, there are nearly 1,300 licensed APRNs residing in Hawai'i. For the purposes of this measure, the APRNs most likely to engage in women's health care include Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Certified Nurse Midwives; these categories make up 93% of the state's APRN workforce (Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, 2019).

APRNs are noted in national research to be more likely to provide care to underserved people and communities including rural areas, urban areas, to women, and to Medicaid recipients or uninsured people (Buerhaus et al., 2014). Currently there are practicing APRNs in all regions of Hawai'i with more than 25% of Hawai'i's APRNs are working in rural areas (Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, 2017). Further, the majority of APRNs working in the Counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i work in federally designated medically underserved areas.

The Center offers the following information for your committee's review. California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia have laws or rules which enables providers, including APRNs, to perform abortions (review of state laws).

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.*

Hawai'i adopted the national best practices for APRN scope of practice, the APRN Consensus Model. This Model states that licensure, accreditation, and certification combined provide guidance on an APRN's scope of practice. In accordance with their license, accreditation, certification, and education, Chapter 89 – Nurses of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) states that APRNs may order, interpret, or perform diagnostic, screening, and therapeutic examinations, tests, and procedures (HAR 16-89-81 Practice Specialties). In addition, APRNs must adhere to professional conduct as defined in HAR Chapter 89 – Nurses which prohibits nurses from performing nursing techniques or procedures without proper education and training (HAR 16-89-60 Types of Unprofessional Conduct) (6)(E). These requirements create a safe practice environment with clear standards to ensure high quality and safe care.

Therefore, the current scope of practice permits APRNs to perform procedures not otherwise restricted by state law or rule and requires APRNs to perform only those procedures for which they have received proper education and training. Further, there are legal and professional standards in place to ensure all providers, including APRNs, must demonstrate education, training, and competency prior to performing any skill or procedure on a person during patient care.

Additionally, a key characteristic of the APRN Consensus Model is based on regulation and scope of practice for healthcare professionals principles including:

1. “regulation — public protection — should have top priority in scope of practice decisions, rather than professional self-interest;
2. changes in scope of practice are inherent in our current healthcare system;
3. collaboration between healthcare providers should be the professional norm
4. overlap among professions is necessary; and
5. practice acts should require licensees to demonstrate that they have the requisite training and competence to provide a service” ([NCSBN.org](http://NCSBN.org), 2012)

Applying these principles, the APRN Consensus Model established clarity for the regulation of nursing under the exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing. Further, this model is also recommended by the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) and National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Establishing guidance for nurses within Chapter 457, the nurse practice act, will reinforce the principles and clarity achieved in 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments related to nurses as referenced in this measure.

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**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:37:32 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports House Bill 576 HD 3.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: Hawai'i State Senate Health and Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committees  
Hearing Date/Time: Fri., Mar. 19, 9:30 AM  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 229  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i in strong support of HB 576, HD3

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Baker and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i ("PPVNH") writes in strong support of HB 576, HD3, to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live. PPVNH also submits this testimony on behalf of 314 individuals who signed a petition in support of HB 576 (see p. 5-12). As currently drafted, this bill takes an important step forward in ensuring equal access to abortion care by allowing advanced practice registered nurses ("APRNs") to provide early in-clinic abortions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus the barriers patients and providers have long faced in accessing and providing abortion care. No patient or provider should ever be forced to travel by air or by ferry to access or provide basic reproductive health care, and that has never been truer than during the pandemic when travel is a public health risk. Paying for transportation and lodging to access abortion care is unnecessarily and sometimes prohibitively costly for patients, providers, and the state, and travel overall is dangerous to public health during the pandemic. To reduce costs and ensure patients and providers can safely access and provide health care in their own communities, qualified licensed providers – like APRNs – should be allowed to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

**Limited access to abortion care, especially during COVID-19, is unsafe, costly, and has a disproportionate impact on people from neighbor islands.**

Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care only to physicians. This burdensome and medically unnecessary restriction limits the availability of abortion providers, leading to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.

While Hawai'i faces a physician shortage that leads to this inequitable access to abortion care, advanced clinicians like APRNs are more available throughout our islands and can help fill this gap. HB 576 will help to address this provider shortage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by allowing people to seek abortion care from their preferred medical provider in their own community. People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not currently have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. Additionally, people on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly in from another island. On Hawaii island, abortion care is only available on Hilo. This limited availability of care is unsustainable and inequitable, especially during and in the wake of a pandemic.

Being forced to travel, particularly by air or by ferry, to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence,

people of color, people with low incomes, people who live in rural communities, and young people. The islands without access to an abortion provider – like Kaua‘i and Moloka‘i – have large Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities who already face myriad barriers accessing health care and getting quality care, in part as a consequence of systemic racism amid a public health crisis. The physician-only restriction perpetuates this inequitable system by disproportionately forcing Indigenous communities and communities of color to travel for care and shoulder the burden of Hawai‘i’s abortion provider shortage. Moreover, COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, at times impossible, expensive, and risky to viral spread.

### **APRNs can safely and effectively provide abortion care**

Aspiration abortion is an incredibly safe procedure that can effectively be performed in health clinics or office settings. Abortion, including aspiration abortion, is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States, and the risk of major complications that require hospitalization is exceptionally rare.<sup>1</sup> Major complications from abortion occur in less than a quarter of one percent of procedures. This is about the same frequency of complications as for colonoscopies and less frequent than complications for wisdom tooth removal and tonsillectomy.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, aspiration abortion can be safely performed in an office or clinic setting; scientific literature concludes that the safety of abortion care provided in an office setting is equivalent to the safety of abortion care provided in a hospital setting.<sup>3</sup> For example, in a systematic literature review of over 11,000 scientific articles on aspiration abortion care, researchers found that medical complications from aspiration abortion were so low that this procedure could safely be provided in an office setting, and that when complications did occur in office settings, they were effectively managed at the clinic.<sup>4</sup>

Numerous studies have found no difference in abortion safety when performed by qualified licensed providers – such as APRNs – rather than a physician.<sup>5</sup> For example, a multi-year study conducted by the University of California San Francisco’s Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health evaluated nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants providing early in-clinic abortion care. Over the five-year study, almost 8,000 patients received care from a qualified licensed provider, including at health centers and clinics, and the study found comparable rates of safety, effectiveness, and acceptability when compared to care from a physician.<sup>6</sup> Qualified licensed provider care is also welcomed by patients: in a study evaluating patient experience after accessing abortion care, patients

<sup>1</sup> The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States, *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine* (2018). [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507232/#sec\\_000082](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507232/#sec_000082)

<sup>2</sup> Groundbreaking research proves that abortion is an extremely safe procedure, *Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health* (2019). <https://bixbycenter.ucsf.edu/news/groundbreaking-research-proves-abortion-extremely-safe-procedure>; See also Raymond, E.G., et al., Mortality of induced abortion, other outpatient surgical procedures and common activities in the United States. *Contraception*, 2014. 90(5): p. 476-9

<sup>3</sup> White, K., Carroll, E., & Grossman, D. Complications from first-trimester aspiration abortion: A systematic review of the literature. *Contraception*, 92(5), 422–438 9 (2015, November) (in a review of over 11,000 scientific articles on aspiration abortion, researchers found the number of major complications were similar for office-based settings and hospital-based settings).

<sup>4</sup> White, K., Carroll, E., & Grossman, D. Complications from first-trimester aspiration abortion: A systematic review of the literature. *Contraception*, 92(5), 422–438 9 (2015, November)

<sup>5</sup> Weitz, T. et al. (2013). Safety of aspiration abortion performed by nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants under a California legal waiver. *American Journal Public Health*, 103(3): 454-461. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3673521/> (concluding that complications from abortion were rare whether performed by a nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, a physician assistant, or a physician, with no clinically significant difference in complication rates based on who performed the abortion); Kallner, K. et al. (2015). The efficacy, safety and acceptability of medical termination of pregnancy provided by standard care by doctors or by nurse-midwives: a randomized controlled equivalence trial. *BJOG*, 122(4): 510-517. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25040643> (finding that the effectiveness of provision of in-clinic abortion care by nurse-midwife providers was superior to that provided by doctors and some patients responded they would prefer to see a nurse-midwife); Freedman, M., Jillson, D., Coffin, R., & Novick, L. (1986). Comparison of complication rates in first trimester abortions performed by physician assistants and physicians. *American Journal of Public Health*, 76(5): 550-554. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.76.5.550> (finding that in-clinic abortion care provided by physician assistance were comparable in safety and efficacy to those provided by physicians). See generally Barnard, S., Kim, C., & Park, M.H. (2015). Doctors or mid-level providers for abortion. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 7: 1-39. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD011242.pub2/epdf/full>.

<sup>6</sup> Weitz, T. et al. (2013). Safety of aspiration abortion performed by nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants under a California legal waiver. *American Journal Public Health*, 103(3): 454-461. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3673521/>

demonstrated a high level of satisfaction overall when they received their abortion care from a nurse practitioner, a certified nurse midwife, or a physician assistant.<sup>7</sup>

Medical experts support removing restrictions on qualified licensed providers. Many health care and professional organizations have confirmed that qualified licensed providers can safely and effectively provide abortion care, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Public Health Association, the World Health Organization, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the National Abortion Federation, among others.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, in a 2018 review, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that qualified licensed providers are equally capable of providing safe and effective abortion care as physicians.<sup>9</sup> Experts agree: restricting qualified providers from providing abortion care confers no medical benefit and instead harms patients by limiting access to care.<sup>10</sup>

Qualified licensed providers are also more available throughout Hawai‘i than physicians, so if qualified licensed providers could provide abortion, fewer people in Hawai‘i would have to travel long distances to receive care.<sup>11</sup> Hawai‘i has already seen the benefit of allowing qualified licensed providers perform a wide range of health care services, with APRNs’ role expanding dramatically in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i has consistently expanded what services APRNs can provide. For example, between 2009 and 2018, Hawai‘i’s legislature passed 22 laws improving the scope of practice for APRNs.<sup>12</sup> APRNs are recognized in state policy as primary care providers: they are permitted to evaluate patients, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and prescribe treatments and medications. They already provide a wide range of services, from administering anesthesia during surgeries to managing chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes to providing gynecologic care and family planning services.<sup>13</sup>

APRNs in Hawai‘i also already provide a wide range of reproductive health services. For example, APRNs can prescribe medication abortion and they provide many procedures that are similar to or more complicated than abortion, such as intrauterine device (IUD) insertion and endometrial biopsy.<sup>14</sup> The American Public Health Association (APHA) condemns physician-only laws as “ideologically based statutes [that] contradict evidence” because qualified licensed providers’ roles and experiences already “includes management of conditions and procedures significantly more complex than...[in-clinic] abortion.”

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<sup>7</sup> Taylor, D. et al. (2013). Multiple determinants of the abortion care experience: from the patient’s perspective. *American Journal of Medical Quality*, 28(6): 510-518. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1062860613484295>

<sup>8</sup> Berer, M. (2009). Provision of abortion by mid-level providers: international policy, practice and perspectives. *Bulletin World Health Organization*, 87(1): 58-63. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2649591/>

<sup>9</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018). *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States*. Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24950/the-safety-and-quality-of-abortion-care-in-the-united-states>

<sup>10</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018). *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States* (p. 159). Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24950/the-safety-and-quality-of-abortion-care-in-the-united-states>

<sup>11</sup> Hawaii State Center for Nursing, 2019 Nursing Workforce Supply Report (2019). <https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-Nursing-Workforce-Supply-Report-vFinal.pdf> (Hawaii now has 82% more APRNs than we did 10 years ago). In 2019, experts estimated that Hawai‘i was short 800 physicians and with the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining physicians are less able to provide routine or preventive care. Kristen Consillio, *Health Care Shortage Leaves Hawaii Hurting* (August 30, 2019), <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2019/08/30/hawaii-news/health-care-shortage-leaves-hawaii-hurting/>

<sup>12</sup> Hawaii State Center for Nursing, *Hawaii Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Legislative & Practice History* (2019) [https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Mod-HI-APRN-History-Removing-Barriers-to-Practice-1\\_07\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Mod-HI-APRN-History-Removing-Barriers-to-Practice-1_07_2019.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Hawaii State Center for Nursing. *What Is an APRN* (2019). [://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/APRN-Roles-FINAL-071217.pdf](https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/APRN-Roles-FINAL-071217.pdf); Hawaii State Center for Nursing, *Thank You for Your Support Factsheet* (2018). <https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/APRN-Thank-You-Legislators-FINAL-121117.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> American Public Health Association. *Provision of Abortion Care by Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants (Policy Number 20112)* (2011). <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/28/16/00/provision-of-abortion-care-by-advanced-practice-nurses-and-physician-assistants>

Given that many people in Hawai‘i routinely receive care from qualified licensed providers, HB 576 would help maintain continuity of care with a single provider. People seeking an abortion should be able to seek care from a provider they trust who builds on-going relationships with patients and is an established abortion care provider. Having community-based providers that patients trust is particularly important for communities who have experienced a history of racism and oppression from the health care system and report a distrust of the medical providers, such as immigrants, Pacific Islanders, including Native Hawaiians, and other communities of color. Allowing APRNs to provide early in-clinic abortion would help people receive highly personal care from a provider they know and trust.

### **Lifting this unnecessary and burdensome restriction will save money for the state and for Hawai‘i families**

Hawai‘i is facing a massive budget deficit and must invest in legislation proven to be cost-effective. With more providers available in patients’ communities, there would be fewer travel and lodging expenses that the state cover under MedQuest and that patients would pay for out-of-pocket. Plus, the cost of abortion care increases with the number of weeks of pregnancy; improved access to providers of early abortion care reduces delays and thus reduces costs for patients, insurers, and the state. Meaningful, equitable access to abortion care also limits costs associated with unintended pregnancy in Hawai‘i, which is critical given the state’s budget deficit.

A growing number of states recognize that qualified licensed providers can safely and effectively provide abortion care and are increasingly allowing these providers to provide both medication and in-clinic abortion care, including California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.<sup>15</sup> Allowing qualified providers to provide abortion care is a growing trend across the country, with these 12 states expanding aspiration abortion access since 2014, plus an additional seven states allowing qualified providers to prescribe medication abortion. The governor of Maine, which recently passed legislation expanding qualified licensed providers’ care, pointed out that allowing these providers to provide abortion care meant that people in Maine, “especially those in rural areas, are able to access critical reproductive health care services when and where they need them from...providers they know and trust.”<sup>16</sup>

All people in Hawai‘i deserve timely, safe, and local access to abortion care and the pandemic has further demonstrated this need and the barriers patients and providers face because of the physician-only restriction. We strongly encourage lawmakers to lift the burdensome and medically unnecessary physician-only restriction to ensure people in Hawai‘i can access abortion care with fewer financial and logistical barriers and stay in their respective communities to get care from trusted providers. We look forward to continuing to work with you to remove legal barriers to abortion care, including providing

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<sup>15</sup> See Lovett, Ian, California Expands Availability of Abortion, *New York Times*. Retrieved 7 November 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/10/us/california-expands-availability-of-abortions.html> (listing VT, NH, OR, and MT as states preceding California in allowing qualified licensed providers to provide in-clinic abortions); Gomez, Amanda, Maine governor signs bill to increase number of abortion providers. *Think Progress*. Retrieved 7 November 2019. <https://thinkprogress.org/maine-law-increases-number-abortion-providers-nurse-practitioners-2beb546dabb1/>; Washington State Office of the Attorney General. *Authority of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to Perform Pre-Viability Aspiration Abortions* (AGO 2019 No. 1 – Feb. 1, 2019). Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <https://www.atg.wa.gov/ago-opinions/authority-advanced-registered-nurse-practitioners-and-physician-assistants-perform-pre>; National Partnership for Women and Families. *Reproductive Health Wins of 2019* (2019) (p. 2). Retrieved 7 November 2019, from <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/resources/repro/reproductive-health-wins-of.pdf>; Kate Coleman-Minahan et al., *Interest in Medication and Aspiration Abortion Training among Colorado Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, and Physician Assistants*. *Women’s Health Issues* 30:3. Retrieved 21 January 2021, from [https://www.whijournal.com/article/S1049-3867\(20\)30006-2/pdf](https://www.whijournal.com/article/S1049-3867(20)30006-2/pdf); N.Y. Pub. Health L. § 2599-bb; Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-72.

<sup>16</sup> Office of Governor Janet T. Mills, *Governor Mills Signs Legislation to Increase Access to Critical Reproductive Health Care for Women* (2019), <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-signs-legislation-increase-access-critical-reproductive-health-care-women-2019>

statutory consistency across laws relating to abortion, to ensure that all Hawaii people have full and equal access to the care they need and deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field  
Hawai'i State Director  
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawai'i

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Moran, Paulette	59802
Callahan, Sabrina Ahulani	63119
Truong, Amy Mi	76002
A, Erin	85281
Seuell, Suzette	85281

### **Testimony for HB 576 HD3**

Senator Heohokalole, Chair Health Committee  
Senator Baker, Chair Commerce Committee

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Baker, and esteemed members of the committees,

My name is Dr. Allan Weiland, and I am a retired OB/Gyn physician living in Kihei. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in favor of HB 576.

When I was a medical student in Chicago in 1972, I saw first-hand the effects of poor access to abortion services. Wealthy women always could arrange these services, however, poor women, women of color, and rural women were at a disadvantage. Desperate women would turn to illegal and unsafe methods to terminate pregnancy, often with disastrous and sometimes fatal, results. We now have very safe methods of termination, however the access to these methods is inequitably distributed. The same populations today have the same access issues, compounded by a pandemic which limits safe travel.

In Maui County both Lanai and Molokai have no local access to anyone who can terminate a pregnancy. On Maui this access is limited to a couple of days a week, with a traveling physician.

HB 576/ proposes to increase the pool of qualified providers of termination services. The result would be more equal access to safe termination services, with the result of fewer unwanted pregnancies. Experience in other locales, particularly Colorado, has shown that increasing access to affordable reproductive and termination services, will lower costs to the state.

This bill should not impact the state budget, but will positively impact the lives of many of our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Allan Weiland  
[aw3200@gmail.com](mailto:aw3200@gmail.com)  
96753



Representative Mark Nakashima Chair  
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice-Chair  
*House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs*

**IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Mallory Thompson and I am writing today in support for HB 576.

Qualified licensed providers such as APRNs and PAs should be allowed to provide early abortion care. This is especially important with the current state of COVID-19, as patients and providers should not need to make any unnecessary travel or endure any extra economic hardship due to the cost of travel or medical care. Travel to reach care is already a large barrier to many, and the passing of HB 576 would relieve an unnecessary burden to those who have been facing multiple barriers to getting the healthcare they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Mallory Thompson  
mallory3@hawaii.edu  
64118

To: Hawai'i State Senate Health/Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 19, 2021, 9:30 am  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 229  
Re: Testimony in support of HB 576, Relating to Equal Access to Abortion

Aloha e Chairs Keohokalole & Baker, Vice Chairs Baker & Chang, and esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Madeline “Maddy” Walsh, and I’m currently a student at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. I write to you in strong support of House Bill 576 and urge the committee to pass this measure as soon as possible in order to ensure equal access to abortion services across the Hawaiian islands.

I have always been proud of Hawai’i, my lifelong home, for being such a strong leader in the reproductive justice movement. However, I was appalled after learning that most people on our outer islands do not have access to local abortion care providers. Either physicians from O’ahu (the only people allowed to provide abortions in Hawai’i at this time) have to fly to our neighbor islands infrequently to give care, or patients have to travel inner island *themselves* when seeking to terminate a pregnancy. The latter is obviously not a reality, or even a feasible choice for most people because of barriers like travel expenses, scheduling, work and school arrangements, childcare, etc. Not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating all these conditions.

**The bottom line is that people deserve equitable access to abortion care no matter where they live.**

HB 576 will allow qualified and licensed advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) (who are more available throughout our islands) to provide abortion care, thus closing this health gap and giving every community access to timely, safe, and affordable abortion care.

I urge the committee to pass and move HB 576 forward, leaving no Hawaiian island, community, or population behind when it comes to time sensitive, and possibly life saving health care. Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this critical piece of legislation.

E mālama,  
Madeline “Maddy” Walsh

[mmwalsh@hawaii.edu](mailto:mmwalsh@hawaii.edu)

Hale‘iwa, 96712

**Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,**

My name is Anastasia, and I am writing today in **strong support** of HB 576.

There are many reasons why abortion is one of the hardest things a woman can go through, but a lack of access should not be one of them. Yet, this is the current reality of many women across the islands.

Hawai'i legalized abortion before the landmark Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. I thought we were doing good as a state. I grew up on Maui, and we had access to a provider who flew over once or twice a month. But these rights are not in everyone's reach. I started looking into access for women from rural areas and the neighbor islands; it was hard to believe that women from Kaua'i, Molokai, and Lāna'i have to fly to O'ahu for care. I had no idea what women have been going through.

I put myself in the shoes of a single mother with three children making one of the hardest decisions in my life and thought: "How will I afford the extra expenses?" "Who will take care of my children?" "How will I get to the airport?" or "What about the pandemic?". I would be terrified.

I humbly ask that you, too, take a moment to put yourselves in the shoes of women who come across these barriers every day; women who are mothers, who experience domestic violence, or women who are financially struggling due to the loss of a job during this pandemic.

Giving qualified providers the ability to care for women in their time of need can make a tremendous difference by expanding access to vital healthcare for women across Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

**Anastasia Sanft**  
**96708**

**To:** Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection

**From:** Jessica Conner, MSW Candidate at University of Hawai'i at Manoa

**Subject:** Strong support for HB576 relating to Health Care

Aloha my name is Jessica Conner. I am a resident on the big island of Hawai'i. As a social work student and a volunteer for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i, I have been deeply involved with researching the different resources available to my community members. My research on access to reproductive healthcare was initiated when a dear friend of mine (who at the time was a victim of domestic violence) had an unintended pregnancy and needed abortion care. Women living on the outer islands of Hawai'i with no direct access to a Planned Parenthood Clinic are left feeling scared and distressed. As it stands right now, on the island of Hawai'i when a patient is making such a significant decision about their future they'll need to go through multiple steps to get access to vital healthcare such as an abortion. Having medical doesn't simply mean that a patient is a candidate and will receive services. Depending on the patient's medical insurance the process can extend for weeks, and that is not acceptable. The current pandemic has made the process even harder for residents living on Lana'i, Kauai and Molokai, as their access to these services are even slimmer than those living in Maui, O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. I've recently learned that residents living on Lana'i only have access to one hospital and two healthcare clinics. For a patient seeking access to an abortion, they'd need to schedule an appointment with a physician on a different island! This process is extremely time consuming and difficult, as they now have limited resources and flight services.

As a woman and a friend to someone who has experienced the procedures to get an abortion, I am stressing the importance of this bill. For whatever reason a woman is seeking an abortion, the process should not make things harder for the patient. On the big island of Hawai'i,

there is limited public transportation. My close friend who was a victim of DV shared her story with me and I couldn't believe how hard it was for her. She lived on the Hilo side of the island and had to wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning to catch a ride on the Hele-on bus to make it to her appointment in Kailua-Kona on time, as this was the only option she could find that took her medical insurance. When she got to her appointment to confirm her pregnancy, she was devastated to learn that she would need to wait a week or two while her current physician made arrangements with a physician on another island. This meant that she needed to wait to hear from her doctor and make further arrangements to ensure that she could make the next appointment, while trying to ensure that her abusive partner at the time wouldn't find out. She was forced to choose between two options: 1. Wait for her appointment and arrangements to travel to another island or 2. Cancel and pray for the best. Each option instilled a set of fear that made her feel stuck in a terrible situation. There is no need to add psychological trauma to a patient when we can fight for and deliver equitable access on each island.

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

In solidarity,  
Jessica Conner

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 6:26:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marit Pearlman Shapiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) in Hawai'i, and I am testifying in support of House Bill 576. I specialize in women's health care and a part of my training and practice are aspiration procedures. By allowing advanced practice registered nurses and physicians assistants to perform aspiration abortions, we would increase access to basic healthcare for the women of our state. Without them, certainly women would have to go without health care. As the majority of aspiration abortions take place in the first trimester, this bill can significantly improve access to comprehensive reproductive care for women in Hawai'i.

I am a provider of abortion care as well – one of a handful of OB/GYNs in our state who provide this service. I travel once or twice a month to Maui to provide abortion care because there is no aspiration abortion provider currently on Maui. In fact, the only other island that has an aspiration abortion provider is the Big Island. Our non-Oahu communities have always had difficulty accessing this care, but that has become exacerbated by the pandemic. Travel to Oahu always entails taking time off from work, finding childcare, raising money for interisland travel – all of which affects folks with lower income and from our communities of color, especially Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, but now our residents are dealing with confusing travel restrictions, procuring testing, and potential quarantining when they return to their home island.

The safety of trained APRNs and PAs performing this procedure has been repeatedly demonstrated through clinical research. This conclusion was confirmed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a non-partisan source that provides objective assessments of science and technology. And after a successful multi-year pilot program, California passed a similar law, expanding abortion provision to APRNs, PAs and certified nurse midwives. Ten other states have similar laws.

Hawaii has always led the way in reproductive health care recognizing that abortion access is vital to women's health. The evidence is clear. This is not only safe, but needed. It is time Hawaii expands access to comprehensive women's healthcare, which is why I support HB 576.

Thank you,

Marit Pearlman Shapiro, MD

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:58:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,**

**My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in support for HB 576.**

**As a 25 year old woman of color, I have always had the privilege of accessing affordable reproductive health care to take care of my body as needed. Being able to access the wide range of reproductive health services has significantly impacted my success in my education, career and overall well-being.**

**As an organizer for Planned Parenthood, I've had the ability to speak on reproductive rights issues on a platform that I used to dream about when I was little -- a platform where I am encouraged, uplifted and supported. Planned Parenthood has not only given me health care since I was 16 years old, but also the platform to be heard, to advocate, and to take action in what matters to me most within my community.**

**The most rewarding part about my job is the ability to connect with hundreds of people all over the islands and listen to stories about their experiences accessing the same exact care that has impacted my life so greatly. The hardest part is learning the extreme barriers that people face in accessing care that is unrightfully stigmatized and systemically out of reach for BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, youth, people with low incomes as well as victims of domestic violence and/or intimate partner violence.**

**Our neighbor islands are struggling immensely when it comes to abortion access and are forced to travel long distances, potentially exposing themselves to COVID-19, on top of the other financial responsibilities of traveling to get care.**

**I cannot fight for the right to have reproductive health care be protected in the law, without the right for equitable access in the law. A right without access is not a right at all and I respectfully urge you to pass HB 576 to ensure that everyone in Hawai'i has safe and equitable access to lifesaving care.**



**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,**

**Alani Bagcal**

**[alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org](mailto:alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org)**

**96815**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:56:33 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Younghi Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 576 HD3, which would authorize licensed physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to perform certain abortions. Hawaii's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.

We request for amendments recommended by the healthcare providers. We want to make sure that APRNs can confidently provide care without the fear of prosecution. Thank you for your consideration.

Youngee Overly, Public Policy Chair of AAUW of Hawaii

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:07:00 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mieko Aoki	Testifying for Aoki Birthing Care	Support	No

Comments:

Reproductive health care must remain accessible to all those in need in their community. They should not have to travel to another island for procedures that can be made easily accessible, applied & resolved in their community especially by those presently available to apply these procedures.



**Date Submitted:** March 17, 2021

**Hearing Date:** March 19, 2021  
9:30am, Conference Room 229

**To:** COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

**From:** Stacey Jimenez, Executive Director

**Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 576, HD3, Relating to Health Care**

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to HB 576, HD3.

A Place for Women in Waipio is a pregnancy medical center that serves the community of Oahu. Though A Place for Women does not refer or perform abortions at our location, we do provide free, evidence-based pregnancy options education, onsite pregnancy testing, limited-obstetric ultrasounds as well as abortion recovery classes for women who have had an abortion and are having a difficult time coping.

Although we oppose abortion because we have seen the harm it does to women, we do recognize that it is legal in Hawaii. No matter our views on abortion, hopefully we can all agree that women in Hawaii deserve only the best medical care. We are concerned that HB 576, HD3 will be lowering the standard of care by allowing Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to perform first trimester abortions. APRNs do not have the same training as physicians and should not be allowed to perform abortions.

Some complications from aspiration abortion can be cervical lacerations, uterine perforation, bowel perforation and hemorrhaging. Who is going to handle these type of complications that arise if a mid-level provider is performing the procedure? Surgical decision making requires a high level of training and expertise that APRNs may not possess. It is important to keep a high standard to safeguard a woman's health and future reproduction. Women deserve only the best standard of care and as government representatives, I hope you will stand up and protect women's health.

In my years of experience talking with women in Hawaii who are dealing with unexpected pregnancies, I have found that circumstances can be complicated and each woman has different needs. Expanding abortion access may not be the need in this state that best serves women with unexpected pregnancies.

Will the state increase access and education to all other pregnancy options and needs of a woman experiencing an unexpected pregnancy? A majority of the women considering abortion that I assist decide on abortion for social/economic reasons - not because they want to terminate their child. I believe the state should take a holistic approach when determining how to help these women/families. Complications from abortion can be different for each person. Physical complications are not the only things to consider when discussing abortion. We have learned through our abortion recovery classes how women can be effected in the long-term after an abortion. We have seen that women suffer from emotional, relational and spiritual side effects that compound over time. We have found that it can take years for a woman to recover from these other types of "side-effects" from obtaining an abortion. **Wouldn't it better service women in these circumstances to address their real needs so that they can have hope for their future as well as their child's future?**

Protect the women of Hawaii. Please vote NO on HB 576, HD3.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:54:40 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Hamid	Testifying for AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

AF3IRM Hawai'i supports HB 576. We urge the committee to pass this measure.

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**AND**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**  
Friday, March 19, 2021  
9:30 AM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

in consideration of  
**HB 576, HD3**  
**RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Chairs KEOHOKALOLE and BAKER, Vice Chairs BAKER and CHANGE, and Members of the Senate Health & Commerce and Consumer Protect Committees

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments in support of HB 576, HD3, which authorizes advanced practice registered nurses to perform medication or aspiration abortions.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening democracy.

Currently, there is a shortage of physicians on all islands, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. See <https://www.khon2.com/coronavirus/hawaiis-doctor-shortage-has-worsened-after-covid-19-pandemic/>. HB 576, HD3 will provide people with safe and necessary access to abortion care. This will mean security and stability for families, communities, and our state as a whole. Common Cause Hawaii understands that when the people of Hawaii have access, without discrimination, to the full range of reproductive health care services, including abortion care, under law and without excessive restrictions, this will have the effect of a healthy, vibrant democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 576, HD3. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



Submitted Online: March 18, 2021

**Hearing:** Friday, March 19, 2021

**TO:** Senate Committee on Health                      Senate Committee on Commerce & CP  
Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair                      Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair                      Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**RE:** Opposition to HB576 HD3 Relating to Healthcare

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. Our organization has long opposed abortion in any form and of course will continue to oppose any expansion to the law. We oppose HB 576 HD3 which authorizes advance practice registered nurses to perform certain abortions.

Regulations on access to abortions are necessary to protect the health and life of women who do choose to have an abortion and, to whatever extent possible, reduce the number of women who make such a choice. No matter what side of the debate you are on, everyone should appreciate this extra layer of protection. We strongly believe that allowing medical providers who do not have the same extensive training as medical doctors perform this procedure will undermine the safety of women in our state. In fact, the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists is opposed to this expansion.<sup>i</sup>

Finding any true statistics on complications of abortion (including death) is already virtually impossible because according to the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) “states and areas voluntarily report data to CDC for inclusion in its annual Abortion Surveillance Report. CDC’s Division of Reproductive Health prepares surveillance reports as data become available. **There is no national requirement for data submission or reporting.**”<sup>ii</sup> (Emphasis mine.)

Instead of focusing only on the access to abortion, we should support increased access to all choices that come with an unintended pregnancy: abstinence education, heightening awareness about adoption, supporting counseling services for women with unwanted pregnancies and establishing parental notification.

We believe that maintaining our current law that restricts any health care provider other than physicians from providing aspiration abortion care is the only real way to ensure women’s health and safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FINAL-Policy-Statement-Non-Physician-Abortion-Providers.pdf> (accessed 02/03/21)

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data\\_stats/abortion.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats/abortion.htm) (accessed 02/03/21)



Hearing: **Committee on Health**  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, March 19, 2021 @ 9:30 AM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

From: Janet Hochberg, Executive Director, Hawaii Life Alliance

**RE: HB576 HD3 IN STRONG OPPOSITION**

Hawaii Life Alliance is the leading organization that focuses on life issues. We are a National Right to Life affiliate and believe that life begins at conception and ends at natural death.

HLA opposes passage of HB576 HD3 and all bills dealing with the 'scope of practice' of any health care professional which doesn't include language excluding abortion. We take this position because it has long been the strategy of the pro-abortion movement to use a broad definition of that 'scope' as a means to increasing the number of lower health care professionals licensed to provide abortion services.

Scope or independence of practice typically describes the procedures, actions, and processes that a healthcare practitioner is permitted to undertake in keeping with the terms of their professional license. This proposed bill provides authority to non-physicians to perform aspiration abortions. If women are going to choose to use this risky method where there are notable risks and complications, they need to be closely monitored and they need to have a licensed physician.

Further, Hawaii law does not require that medical professionals that treat minor girls for abortions notify parents of a pregnancy. Also, consent of a minor to have an abortion is also not required under Hawaii current statute. The idea of a 14 year old having a major surgical procedure without parents awareness should make all of us who are parents or concerned about children's welfare pause.



As a point of reference, the most common first trimester abortions are vacuum aspiration and suction curettage. Vacuum aspiration is performed with a machine that uses a vacuum

*1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2010, Honolulu, HI 96813, [www.hilifealliance.org](http://www.hilifealliance.org), 808.225.4511* to suck the baby out of the uterus. The vacuum is created by a hand held pump (manual vacuum aspiration) or by electricity (electric vacuum aspiration). The electric machine is far more common in the US. Generally, the manual pump is only used to abort children who are less than 6 weeks old. Except in the very earliest abortions, the mom's cervix will be dilated large enough to allow a cannula to be inserted into her uterus. The cannula is a hollow plastic tube that is connected to either the hand or electric pump by a flexible hose. As a vacuum is created, the abortionist runs the tip of the cannula along the surface of the uterus causing the baby to be dislodged and sucked into the tube – either whole or in pieces. Suction curettage is a variation of vacuum aspiration in which the suction machine is used to get the baby out, with any remaining parts being scraped out of the uterus with a surgical instrument called a curette. Following that, another pass is made through the mom's uterus with the suction machine to help insure that none of the baby's body parts have been left behind.

Additional methods of of first trimester abortion include:

1. D&C (dilation and curettage). During this procedure, the mother's cervix is dilated and a curette is scraped along the sides of the uterus to dislodge the baby. Suction is not used for this type of abortion, but since the mother is usually asleep the abortionist can dilate the cervix large enough that many passes with the curette are possible).
2. Some first trimester abortions are not accomplished using surgery, but chemicals. This procedure begins when the mom is given either mifepristone (Mifeprex; RU486) or methotrexate. Mifepristone causes the baby to become detached from its mother's uterus while methotrexate is actually toxic to the baby and, therefore, kills it directly. Once the child is either detached or dead, the mom is given a labor-inducing drug which causes the uterus to cramp and expel her dead baby. This type of abortion only works up to about the 9th week of pregnancy.

To that end, we are greatly concerned that in the event of a medical emergency such as cervical lacerations, uterine perforations, hemorrhaging, and other possible serious complications could place women and girls at great risk.

National Abortion Federation has long had a strategy for increasing access to abortion by expanding the scope of practice of lower health care professionals. For example, in December 1996, the National Abortion Federation (NAF), with funding from the Kaiser Family Foundation, convened a national symposium to explore how CNMs, NPs, and PAs could participate more fully in abortion service delivery nationwide. In 1997 they presented a symposium entitled, "The role of physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse-midwives in providing abortions: strategies for expanding abortion access." (National symposium, Atlanta, GA, 13-14 December 1996. Washington, DC: National Abortion Federation; 1997).

There is even a 'tool kit' entitled "Providing Abortion Care: A Professional Tool Kit for Nurse-Midwives, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants" (2009). It was developed as a guide for health care professionals who want to include abortion as being within their scope of practice.

Expanding the number of people who can provide abortion will increase the number of unborn children being killed. We strongly urge you to prevent this from happening by making it clear that it is not within the scope or independence of practice of lower health care professionals to provide abortion.

Abortion proponents have long touted that abortion should be SAFE, LEGAL & RARE! Although we choose life over abortion, let's keep it that way and work toward serving our most vulnerable communities with resources and life affirming programs that will help prevent and mitigate the fall out from unplanned and difficult pregnancies.

**Let's also perpetuate the unique culture of aloha that never fails and protect Hawaiian babies who may one day be a voice for their great land and people!**

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB576 HD3.



# HMIHC

HAWAII MATERNAL & INFANT  
HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

TO: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 19, 2021, 9:30 AM  
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229 via Videoconference

FROM: Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative

**Re: HB 576 HD 3 – Relating to Health Care**  
**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Health, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Hawaii Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative, founded in 2013, is a public private partnership committed to improving birth outcomes, reducing infant mortality, and achieving reproductive justice. People seeking abortion services on islands like Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i, must travel long distances to access care, which increases costs for travel, lodging, childcare, and missed time from work. In addition, people needing abortion services on Maui must wait for the two times a month that providers travel there to provide services, and people living in west Hawai'i must travel to Hilo, where abortion services are available. Having to travel far, make arrangements for childcare, and miss work to access reproductive health services, including abortion, creates undue burden and further marginalizes people who already face systemic barriers to care such as, indigenous people, people of color, people with low incomes, survivors of intimate partner violence, people who live in rural communities, and young people. This lack of access to care is unsustainable, inequitable, and does not work towards achieving reproductive justice. This bill will increase access to essential health care services in our communities across our state by allowing APRNs to provide abortion care. This expansion is necessary to deliver safe, high quality care to communities who are impacted by our state's physician shortage.

Sister Song, a national multi-ethnic reproductive justice movement defines reproductive justice as, "the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities."<sup>1</sup> Reproductive justice was born out of the need for representation of the rights and needs of marginalized communities such as indigenous women, women of color, and trans and queer people in the women's rights movement.<sup>1</sup> Reproductive justice is about access, not choice.<sup>1</sup> Legalized abortion does not necessarily mean access, which we see in our island state with the lack of abortion services available on our neighbor islands as well as in rural areas of O'ahu.

The World Health Organization supports abortion care by advanced practice clinicians (APCs) such as Certified Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants, as evidence show that first trimester abortions performed by APCs are just as safe as those provided by physicians.<sup>2,3</sup> In addition, APCs are more likely to care for underserved populations in rural areas, which makes them critical players in expanding health care services.<sup>2,4</sup> Nine states across the US (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia), including the District of Columbia, have no criminal laws or regulations restricting first-trimester abortions to physicians only.<sup>2,3</sup> Establishing APCs as abortion care providers facilitates earlier diagnosis and termination of unintended pregnancies, facilitates continuity of care, and increases the health and well-being of people in Hawai'i.<sup>2,5</sup>

APRN's have been utilized by patients to perform aspiration abortion procedures in hospitals, clinics, and physician office settings. A 5-year study with 8,000 patients evaluating early in-clinic abortion care found comparable rates of safety, effectiveness, and acceptability compared to care with physicians.<sup>6</sup> Aspiration abortion is incredibly safe and major complications requiring hospitalization as a result of the procedure are extremely rare. Additionally, scientific literature concludes that the safety of abortion care provided in an office setting is equivalent to the safety of abortion care provided in a hospital setting.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, ensuring APRN's are able to provide aspiration abortion in all settings (hospitals, clinics, and physician offices) is essential to increasing access to safe and effective health care for all people across the state of Hawai'i.

House Bill 576 HD 3 resonates strongly with the Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative and we strongly urge the committee to pass HB 576 HD3. Doing so would ensure our communities across the state have increased access to quality abortion care and that our APRNs can safely and confidently provide abortion care without fear of criminal penalty.

Founded in 2013, the Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative (Collaborative) is a public private partnership committed to improving birth outcomes and reducing infant mortality in Hawai'i. We are focused on health in the first year of life and want children to have the best start in life. The health of a mother strongly impacts the health and wellbeing of her children and family. We believe Senate Bill 2429 SD 2 will improve the health of mothers thereby optimizing the wellbeing of families in Hawai'i. The Collaborative was developed in partnership with the Executive Office of Early Learning's Action Strategy with help from the Department of Health and National Governors' Association. The [Action Strategy](#) provides Hawai'i with a roadmap for an integrated and comprehensive early childhood system, spanning preconception to the transition to Kindergarten. The Collaborative helps advance goals within the Action Strategy by focusing on ensuring that children have the best start in life by being welcomed and healthy. The Collaborative has completed a strategic plan and accompanying Logic Model, *The First 1,000 Days*, aimed at achieving the outcomes of 8% reduction in preterm births and 4% reduction in infant mortality. To date over 150 people across Hawai'i have been involved in the Collaborative. These members include physicians and clinicians, public health planners and providers, insurance providers and health care administrators. The work is divided into three primary areas, preconception, pregnancy and delivery, and the first year of life, and coordinated by a cross sector leadership team. Work is specific, outcome driven, informed by data and primarily accomplished in small work groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

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<sup>1</sup>Sister Song. Reproductive Justice [Internet]. Sister Song. n.d. [cited 2019 Nov 14]. Available from: <https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice>

<sup>2</sup>Moayed G. & Davis, CMA. Equitable Access to Abortion Care in Hawai'i: Identifying Gaps and Solutions. Hawai'i Journal of Medicine and Public Health. 2018; 77(7): 169-172.

<sup>3</sup>Safety and acceptability of NPs, CNMs, and PAs as abortion providers. ANSIRH. [https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/safety\\_of\\_nps\\_cnms\\_and\\_pas\\_as\\_abortion\\_providers.pdf](https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/safety_of_nps_cnms_and_pas_as_abortion_providers.pdf). Published June 2017. Accessed February 3, 2021.

<sup>4</sup>Provision of Abortion Care by Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants. <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/28/16/00/provision-of-abortion-care-by-advanced-practice-nurses-and-physician-assistants>. Accessed February 3, 2021.

<sup>5</sup>Advancing Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Clinicians: More Than a Matter of Access. <http://www.arhp.org/Publications-and-Resources/Contraception-Journal/August-2009>. Accessed February 3, 2021.

<sup>6</sup>The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States, *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine* (2018). [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507232/#sec\\_000082](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507232/#sec_000082)

<sup>7</sup>White, K., Carroll, E., & Grossman, D. Complications from first-trimester aspiration abortion: A systematic review of the literature. *Contraception*, 92(5), 422-438 9 (2015, November) (In a review of over 11,000 scientific articles on aspiration abortion, researchers found the number of major complications were similar for office-based settings and hospital-based settings).



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing Date/Time: Fri., Mar. 19, 2021, 9:30 am

Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 229

Re: Testimony of Hawai'i Women's Coalition in strong support of HB 576, HD3

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Baker and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition writes in strong support of HB 576, HD3, which seeks to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live.

As currently drafted, this bill takes an important step forward in ensuring equal access to abortion care by allowing advanced practice registered nurses ("APRNs") to provide early in-clinic abortions.

No patient or provider should be forced to travel by boat or by plane to access or provide basic reproductive health care, and that has never been truer than during the pandemic when travel is a public health risk. Paying for transportation and lodging to access abortion care is unnecessarily and sometimes prohibitively costly for patients, providers, and the state, and travel overall is dangerous to public health during the pandemic. To reduce costs and ensure patients and providers can safely access and provide health care in their own communities, qualified licensed providers – like APRNs – should be allowed to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

**Limited access to abortion care during COVID-19 is unsafe, costly, and has a disproportionate impact on patients from neighbor islands.**

Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.

- People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.
- COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.
- Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.

**Qualified licensed providers can safely provide abortion care.**

Allowing qualified licensed providers, such as APRNs, to provide in-clinic abortion care would allow people to stay in their communities and receive high-quality care at lower costs and with fewer financial and logistical barriers.

- The science and research are clear: qualified licensed providers can provide early in-clinic abortion care to patients – studies find no difference in abortion safety when compared with physician care.
- Many health care organizations have confirmed that qualified licensed providers can safely provide abortion care, including American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the World Health Organization, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, among many others.
- States across the country – including California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington – allow certain qualified licensed providers to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

Please pass HB 576, HD 3, to take Hawaii one step closer to ensuring that all Hawaii people have equal access to the care they need and deserve. Thank you for your support for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field  
Hawai'i Women's Coalition Community Co-Chair



March 16, 2021

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,  
Chair Senate Committee on Health

**Re: H.B. 576, H.D. 3 Relating to Health Care**

**Hearing: Friday, March 19, 2021, 9:30 am, Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Health:

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in **strong support** of H.B. 576, H.D.3, which authorizes advanced practice registered nurses (“APRNs”) to perform medication or aspiration abortions.

The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

The need for responsible family planning measures has increased astronomically during the pandemic. Although abortion has been legal in Hawaii since the 1970s, access to abortion still remains severely limited in several areas of the state. Much of this is a result of natural geographic barriers, a problem that has only been exasperated during COVID-19 – Maui residents are only able to access an abortion provider twice each month (and the provider must fly in from another island), the Big Island has only a single abortion provider for the entire island, and Kauai does not have an abortion provider on the island. Abortion access is also especially limited amongst immigrant and low income women, another problem that has been compounded by the pandemic.

“Physician only” laws; i.e., laws that serve to limit the ability to perform medication and aspiration abortions to physicians, have been a long standing, yet wholly unnecessary barrier, to abortion access across the country. They fail to meet the standard set by the Supreme Court of the United States in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, i.e., that regulations on abortion must be supported by evidence demonstrating the law in question actually promotes improved health outcomes. There is simply no evidence showing that limiting medication or aspiration abortions to physicians serve to promote the health of a woman. In fact, given Hawaii’s doctor shortage, such a limitation actively works against women’s health in our islands.

APRNs are recognized as primary care providers who may practice independently based on their practice specialty, including women’s health or as a certified nurse midwife. The number of APRNs in Hawaii more than doubled between 2005 and 2017, and it continues to

be a growing field in our state. According to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, APRNs are more likely to provide care to rural and medically underserved areas than physicians, meaning that the passage of this bill would greatly expand abortion access for women in those areas and generally move us closer to equal access to sufficient healthcare for all residents.

For the above reasons, we strongly support H.B. 576, H.D.3 and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

P.O. Box 2072 Honolulu, Hawaii 96805  
Email: [hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com)





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March 16, 2021

Senate Committee on Health,  
and Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: I support HB 576

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

I'm a criminal defense attorney, living and working on Maui.

Living on a neighbor island shouldn't prevent access to healthcare. I've worked with the indigent during my entire career and this is just one more example of the systemic inequities and barriers that exist for them.

Right now, patients on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and West Hawai'i must travel to access an abortion care provider. And even on Maui, abortion is only available because doctors fly in from Oahu **only twice a month.**

Please pass HB 576 so that all people in Hawai'i have equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live.

Very truly yours,

*/s/ Wendy A. Hudson*

Wendy A. Hudson







**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:04:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nikki-Ann Yee	Testifying for Ma'i Movement Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB 576, HD 3, to take Hawaii one step closer to ensuring that all Hawai'i people have equal access to the care they need and deserve. As currently drafted, this bill takes an important step forward in ensuring equal access to abortion care by allowing advanced practice registered nurses ("APRNs") to provide early in-clinic abortions.

No patient or provider should be forced to travel by boat or by plane to access or provide basic reproductive health care, and that has never been truer than during the pandemic when travel is a public health risk. Paying for transportation and lodging to access abortion care is unnecessarily and sometimes prohibitively costly for patients, providers, and the state, and travel overall is dangerous to public health during the pandemic. To reduce costs and ensure patients and providers can safely access and provide health care in their own communities, qualified licensed providers – like APRNs – should be allowed to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

Limited access to abortion care during COVID-19 is unsafe, costly, and has a disproportionate impact on patients from neighbor islands.

Thank you for your support for this important bill.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:01:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Capri Letterii	Testifying for Planned Parenthood	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Capri Letterii and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576.

I recently graduated from nursing school in December 2020. During the last four years of my education, I had the opportunity to help many people of O'ahu on the path to a healthier, happier, more comfortable life. I have seen patients from Wai'anae to Hawai'i Kai, from young to old, from high income to low income, and even those from neighboring islands. One thing each of these people had in common was a dire need for accessible and affordable healthcare.

In particular, I witnessed individuals from the west side of O'ahu and smaller neighboring islands in need of accessible and affordable reproductive healthcare. In my final year of nursing school, during my community/public health rotation, I encountered a young woman from Moloka'i who traveled to O'ahu for early abortion services/care. While speaking with her, she expressed to me that she was worried about being able to return home. After all of the costs to get to O'ahu and receive healthcare, she did not have the funds to purchase a return ticket home, nor could she afford lodgings on O'ahu any longer. She was hoping to reach out to family for support, but was unsure if she would be successful.

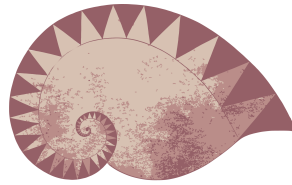
Again in my final year of school, during my obstetrics rotation, I was present for the laboring of a 17 year old girl from the west side of O'ahu. She was unable to access prenatal care for the duration of her pregnancy, and her first time receiving medical care was in the delivery room. She had expressed the desire to terminate her pregnancy early on, but was unable to find resources or funds to do so. The father of her baby, only 15 years old, was from the same area and lived with extended family. He was unable to access care as well, due to financial strain, location, and fear of ridicule from his family.

Unfortunately, these are not my only significant stories regarding access to reproductive healthcare. Whether in a healthcare setting or as a civilian, I have encountered countless persons facing similar problems. By restricting early, in-clinic abortion care to physicians, we are doing a disservice to our communities across Hawai'i. We are contributing to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-

sensitive care. It makes my stomach churn and my chest burn that my patients had to face such adversity during highly sensitive times in their lives. As said by Planned Parenthood, "Allowing qualified licensed providers, such as APRNs and PAs, to provide in-clinic abortion care would allow people to stay in their communities and receive high-quality care at lower costs and with fewer financial and logistical barriers."

As both an individual part of our island communities and a healthcare professional, I STRONGLY support bill HB 576.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,  
Capri Letterii  
capri.letterii@gmail.com  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Thursday, March 18, 2021

### **Testimony in Support: HB576 HD3 Relating to Health Care**

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB576 HD3 Relating to Health Care. This measure helps to ensure access to care by authorizing and making it clear that advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) can perform both medicated and aspirated abortions.**

**By making it clear in statute that these procedures are within the scope of practice for APRNs, we can ensure that all** Hawai'i residents have access to comprehensive safe and timely medical care. Because of Hawaii's geographical makeup, if we do not expand patients access to care, we can create an unforeseen burden requiring patients to travel to another county to get the medical care they need. This can create an unacceptable additional financial burden on the patient and potentially delay a time sensitive procedure. We cannot penalize individuals because of where they live and their ability to take the time and pay for travel. Everyone should have access to comprehensive medical care.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **vote in favor of HB576 HD3.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:01:18 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports HB576, which would support equal access to reproductive healthcare. Please pass this bill.



Young Progressives Demanding Action  
P.O. Box 11105  
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 16, 2021

**TO: SENTAE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION**  
**RE: Testimony in support of HB576 HD3**

Dear Senators,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) **strongly supports** HB576 HD3, which would support equal access to reproductive healthcare.

Hawai'i's current law is outdated and restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.

People living on Kaua'i, Molokai, Lāna'i and the west side of Hawai'i Island do not have access to a local care provider, and are forced to travel long distances to access care. This increases costs for travel, lodging and childcare. Folks on Maui, meanwhile, only have access to a provider twice each month, and the provider must fly in from another island.

Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people and young people.

COVID-19 has only worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive and risky.

Qualified licensed providers—like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs)—should be allowed to provide early abortion care. It is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and healthcare providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care right now. Please support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron

Board President & Secretary, 2020–2021

[action@ypdahawaii.org](mailto:action@ypdahawaii.org)

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:37:45 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**I completely support this measure. It is important to extend abortion procedures to the neighbor islands, where women would otherwise have to fly to another county to receive these services, thus increasing the cost and mental stress. Since APRNs can perform aspiration abortions just as well as doctors, this is sensible legislation and should be passed.**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:43:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

This is a health issue NOT a religious issue. Please make sure to keep the proper lens on when thinking about this vote.

It is my understanding that this bill will reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) – should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:59:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Santana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,**

**My name is Ryan Santana and I am writing today in support for HB 576.**

**As a 27 year old man, I know that all of the health care services that I need are in reach, because I am a man. I know that the women in my life rely on services provided by Planned Parenthood and other reproductive health care providers.**

**I have a deep appreciation in my partners access and ability to choose when she wants to have our future child. During our conversations of family planning we have both expressed how important it is to be financially and emotionally stable before choosing to have a child, so we can ensure our child the best support system we can offer them.**

**During the pandemic I lost my job and health insurance, it has been extremely difficult navigating this pandemic as my unemployment checks have been months late, I have been dealing with the trauma of loved ones passing away from the virus and the overall consequences the pandemic continues to have in our daily lives. Before my partner can commit to being pregnant and having a child, I know that it's my responsibility to be of the best support to her and our family, in every way possible. The effects of the pandemic continue to be a challenge and I cannot even imagine the devastation of not being able to choose when to have a child, especially during this time. A woman's choice and access to reproductive health care should always be heard and accessible.**

**I also know that reproductive health care providers are constantly ridiculed and attacked by anti-abortion activists and policies. My partner works at Planned Parenthood, and I constantly worry about her safety as we always encounter protesters outside her office, some more aggressive than others. Planned Parenthood clinics have historically been attacked and vandalized around the country due to people and policy makers demonizing abortion providers and the people who get them. This is wrong. People in power need to change this and should have the obligation to and make this a priority.**

**I think it is unacceptable that women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ people have to face so many barriers when it comes to accessing life changing care that they need. People should be able to have equitable access to all of the reproductive health care services, whenever they need them, wherever they are.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,**

**Ryan Santana**

**96815**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:09:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Deets	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing to express my strong support for HB576, as a woman and a registered voter. I believe in a woman's right to make choices for her own body. I understand that there are many reasons women may elect to have an abortion, including medical reasons. HB576 will help to ensure that outer-island women have equal access to abortion care, should they need it. All women should have access to safe and affordable reproductive care, including abortion. Please support HB576.



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:11:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB576 to allow APRNs to do surgical and medical abortions. I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and abortion provider in Hawaii and I have observed over and over again the challenges that people face when they need an abortion. Many of my patients have to fly to a neighbor island and take time off work and away from their families because there are no abortion providers available in their communities. These barriers to care have only become more pronounced with the COVID-19 pandemic. Allowing APRNs to provide abortion services would allow many patients to receive care in their communities and with providers with whom they are familiar.

APRNs already perform many different procedures as part of their scope of practice, and abortion care is a skill in which they could be trained to be safe and competent providers. As an educator, I train medical students, residents, and fellows in abortion care and I know that it is very possible to train APRNs in this same skill set.

I urge you to support HB576 to expand access to abortion care for people in Hawaii and allow them to receive safe care within their communities.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:33:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Cheney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Template for HB 576

Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Lauren and I am writing today in support of HB 576.

Please make easy abortion access on all islands. We already have overpopulation, let's support planned pregnancies instead of unplanned hardships.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Lauren Cheney

duffylove@gmail.com

Lihue, HI



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:59:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the important access it provides to women.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:14:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Premeaux	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 576.

Access to reproductive health care is crucial, but many neighbor island residents lack access to the care they need. On Kauai, many are forced to fly to Oahu to access reproductive health care. Those who lack the resources to make the trip are denied treatment. Equal access to reproductive care is a human right that must be extended equally to neighbor islands. Passage of this Bill will go a long way towards accomplishing extending reproductive health care to all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Premeaux

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:47:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha HTH/CPN Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB576 HD3, which will ensure everyone in Hawai'i has equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live.

**Patients on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, LÄ• na'i, and West Hawai'i must currently travel to a different island for abortion care. This is unacceptable - everyone deserves equal access to health care in Hawai'i.**

As demonstrated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, equitable access to medical care is essential to ensuring that our State remains healthy and economically robust.

Please pass HB576.

With thanks,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:22:20 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakāleā, O‘ahu currently residing in Mā‘ili‘ili in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in support of HB576.

HB576 will reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) – should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

Support HB576.

me ke aloha ‘Āina,

Nanea Lo

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:59:52 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren O'Connell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Keohokalole, Senator Baker and other members of the committees,

I am a student at UH Manoa and resident of Honolulu, and I am in strong support of HB576. Before I was born, my mother had a miscarriage before I was born and the hospital she was at was unable to give her the procedure she needed to end her invalid pregnancy, forcing her to endure the emotional turmoil of waiting for it to end from home. Although this happened twenty years ago in the State of Kentucky, the shocking truth is that it is relevant to this bill.

Upon arriving in Hawaii and beginning my volunteer work with Planned Parenthood, I discovered that even in this progressive and open-minded state, women struggle to receive the care they need for a time sensitive procedure. On Maui, there are no abortion providers except those that are flown out twice a month from O'ahu, putting many patients at risk. Often women won't even know that they are pregnant until two or more months into the pregnancy, more than halfway through the first trimester. Although abortion may be legal in this country, legality without access is inequitable. Allowing APRNs to perform abortion procedures would relieve the strain put on Native Hawaiian communities and other communities of color, as well as those without the financial means to travel. Additionally, as an aspiring professional communicator I know that a major barrier to accessibility is also awareness. Having local providers in your community means greater awareness and fewer lives at risk. Passing this bill would mean that women across Hawaii might not have to suffer as mother did.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Lauren O'Connell



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:34:26 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

In a place where abortion access is supported, it only makes sense — always, but especially during a pandemic — to make sure said access is true and equitable.

Studies have consistently and reliably found that safety is not compromised by allowing qualified licensed providers – such as nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physicians assistants – to perform abortion care, with no difference in the risk of complications for in-clinic abortion when performed by a qualified licensed provider versus a doctor.

Any ideas about restricting abortion can be proposed by those concerned with that issue, but so long as the law protects access, we should make sure that access is real and safe.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:53:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Bass	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Colleen Bass, CNM and WHNP, and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576. I have a private practice on the rural island of Kaua'i. Reproductive rights and abortion access are especially important to this community where access to abortion is extremely challenging and impossible for many of the local residents. This bill could greatly impact the women of reproductive age in this community. Women currently have to fly to a neighboring island to receive a surgical abortion. This is nearly impossible for young women and those of low socioeconomic status. The other option of medical abortion is reserved for those who are early enough in the pregnancy to meet criteria and still have to go through a special program/study called teleabortion. I myself as a prescribing provider cannot even prescribe the medication due to the legal ramifications around it. Please support women in their choices and accessibility to make safe choices for themselves, sisters, daughters, etc

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Colleen Bass, CNM WHNP

colleen@huamoonwomenshealth.com

96746



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:53:40 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

mahalo!

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:32:21 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Goodyear	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Brian Goodyear. I am a clinical psychologist and I am writing today in support for HB 576. Hawai'i law currently restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians, in the context of a more general shortage of physicians in Hawai'i, leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care. People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care. This creates a lot of stress for patients and forces patients to incur significant costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island. COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread. Travel to obtain care can be an insurmountable barrier for many people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people. To reduce costs and ensure that all patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) – should be allowed to provide early abortion care. It is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Brian Goodyear, Ph.D.

Honolulu, 96816

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Jarrett Keohokale, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: HB 576\_HD3 – Relating to Health Care

My name is Dr. Samantha Kaiser. I am an obstetrician-gynecologist currently training in Honolulu. I am writing in **strong support** of HB 576, which would allow specially-trained advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to provide aspiration abortions.

This bill is needed. My patients frequently travel far distances to access reproductive care. In our clinics, it is common to hear about women traveling from outside Oahu, just to access simple care, including aspiration abortion. Their travel comes with significant costs; not only the travel itself, but also child care, time off of work, and now, the risk of COVID exposure. This inequity is borne disproportionately by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women.

This bill is safe. The safety of trained clinicians, including APRNs, to perform aspiration abortions, has been demonstrated in studies. This conclusion was confirmed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Additionally, California passed a similar law, allowing aspiration abortions to be performed by advanced practice clinicians, including APRNs. This came after a multi-year pilot program that showed similar outcomes and no increase in complication rates to procedure performed by physicians.

This bill is smart. Aspiration abortion is a procedure that we master within the first year of our training as OB/GYNs. Furthermore, the procedure itself is quite similar to others that APRNs already provide, such as the placement of an IUD or taking a uterine biopsy. I have no doubt that they can learn this skill too.

Hawaii has always led the way in reproductive healthcare by recognizing that abortion access is vital to women's health. The evidence is clear. This change is safe, and needed. It is time Hawaii expands access to comprehensive women's healthcare, which is why I support HB 576.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,  
Samantha Kaiser, MD

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:28:15 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brooke Hunter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB576.

Broadening access to reproductive care by allowing for practicing APRNs to perform certain aborations would protect the best interests and health of women and birthing peoples, particularly those in underserved and remote communities throughout our islands. The current laws are outdated and do not reflect the state's longstanding policies towards protecting access to abortion.

The current barriers to reproductive care are inexcusable and your committee has the opportunity to reduce financial and logistical costs for patients and providers. Limited access to abortion care, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is dangerous and disproproationately impacts our neighbor island communities.

Passing HB576 would allow qualified licensed professionals to provide in-clinic abortion care and allow vulnerable members of our community to receive the high-quality care they deserve.

Respectfully,

Brooke Hunter

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:36:50 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support HB 576 which would allow highly trained Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to perform early in-clinic abortions. HB 576 will correct Hawai'i's outdated and medically unnecessary restriction of allowing only physicians to provide abortion care. Too many people in Hawai'i, especially those on islands like Kaua'i, Moloka'i, LÄ• na'i have to travel by air or by ferry just to reach a qualified physician. Maui has limited service. This enormous, unfair barrier adds time, travel costs, and potential COVID exposure just to access a time-sensitive and safe medical procedure. The barriers especially impact those among us who are financially challenged. How can we continue to see this as acceptable? Please support HB576. Thank you.



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:46:56 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is time to expand who can do abortion services. While abortions are not done thoughtlessly or frequently, it is a woman's health issue and it needs to be addressed now. Providing more qualified medical personnel can better assure access and a healthy environment for this and other specific women's health issues.

Mahalo.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:05:28 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I strongly support HB 576 will allow qualified advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to provide early abortion care. This bill would potentially allow people to receive care closer to their homes, lower wait times, and improve access on all islands. Forcing someone to travel to another island to access safe and legal abortion is an insurmountable burden for far too many people in Hawaii. As we fight the COVID-19 pandemic, it's particularly risky to unnecessarily make people travel to get health care. Women must have freedom over their own bodies and the ability to make their own choices--otherwise there is no equality. This bill helps us maintain our freedom. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Taurie Kinoshita Hawaii resident.**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:50:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear members of the Senate Committees on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT HB 576.**

I am immensely proud of Hawaii's being the first state in the nation to allow legal on-demand abortion. The law enacted in 1970 stated that "*...the State shall not deny or interfere with a female's right to choose or obtain an abortion of a nonviable fetus or an abortion that is necessary to protect the life or health of the female...*"

Sadly, that impressive accomplishment still has a large hurdle to overcome to fulfill that right because of the general scarcity of all types of medical services in rural areas.

The unfortunate lack of current availability of abortion providers, in essence, is denying and interfering with a female's right - - and more often, a female's need - - to choose. **A way for the state to help alleviate the dearth of these medical services, and to discourage the temptation of "coat hanger home remedies", would be to pass HB 576.**

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

To: Hawaii State Legislature – Committees on Health and on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing: Date/Time: Friday, 03-19-21 9:30 am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in strong support of HB576 Equal Access Act

Aloha Chairs Jarrett Keohokalole and Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chairs Rosalyn Baker and Stanley Chang, and esteemed members of these Committees,

I am writing in strong support of HB 576, which seeks to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live.

During a global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care. Paying for transportation and lodging to access abortion care is costly for patients, providers, and the state, not to mention dangerous to public health. To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) – should be allowed to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

Limited access to abortion care during COVID-19 is unsafe, costly, and has a disproportionate impact on patients from neighbor islands.

APRNs and PAs can safely and effectively provide abortion care.

I strongly urge our legislators to support this important benefit change.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

JudithAnnArmstrong@gmail.com

Honolulu, HI 96815

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:24:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Mulinix	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB576. Providing adequate resources and support systems to ensure the health of women in Hawaii is essential. This legislation is an important step in improving the healthcare opportunities for women in Hawaii.

Please vote in support of HB 576.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dave Mulinix

Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

My name is Dr. Megan Stevenson. I am an obstetrician-gynecologist resident currently training in Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of HB 576, which would allow specially-trained advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to provide aspiration abortions.

This bill is needed. My patients frequently travel far distances to access reproductive care. In our clinics, it is common to hear about women traveling from outside Oahu, just to access simple care, including aspiration abortion. Their travel comes with significant costs; not only the travel itself, but also child care, time off of work, and now, the risk of COVID exposure. This travel has also resulted in several of my patients facing significant delays in receiving this necessary medical care. This inequity is borne disproportionately by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women.

This bill is safe. The safety of trained clinicians, including APRNs, to perform aspiration abortions, has been demonstrated in studies. This conclusion was confirmed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Additionally, California passed a similar law, allowing aspiration abortions to be performed by advanced practice clinicians, including APRNs. This came after a multi-year pilot program that showed similar outcomes and no increase in complication rates to procedure performed by physicians.

This bill is smart. Aspiration abortion is a procedure that we master within the first year of our training as OB/GYNs. Furthermore, the procedure itself is quite similar to others that APRNs already provide, such as the placement of an IUD or taking a uterine biopsy. I have no doubt that they can learn this skill too.

Hawaii has always led the way in reproductive healthcare by recognizing that abortion access is vital to women's health. The evidence is clear. This change is safe, and needed. It is time Hawaii expands access to comprehensive women's healthcare, which is why I support HB 576.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,  
Megan Stevenson, MD

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:54:43 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

For what it's worth, for the safety of the women who will be having this procedure done by a APRN, I strongly oppose the passing of this bill.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:02:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jamie Kapana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB576 because this will help reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers- like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)- should be allowed to provide early abortion care. It is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:08:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion Poirier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 17, 2021

To: Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Affairs

For: Friday Hearing at 9:30am

On: H.B. 576, HD 3

**POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT**

Chair Keohokaloe and Members of the Senate Health Committee

Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee:

My name is Marion Poirier and I am in strong support of H.B. 576 which authorizes specialized APRNs to perform medication and aspiration abortions for which they are eminently qualified.

This will be a much needed boost to healthcare delivery, especially on neighbor islands. It's need is indicated by the overwhelming supportive testimony to date. The only opposition that I note is from those generally opposed to abortions by anyone. Of course, that is not the issue at hand nor is it relevant in a public free choice environment.

By way of information, I am an R.N. and a member of the Board of Directors of Hawaii-American Nurses Association. I also belong to several organizations which helped me form my STRONG SUPPORT position on this matter of import to a healthy Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:01:00 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear HTH & CPN Committee members,

I strongly support HB576.

- **Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.**

**People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lanai, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.**

**COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.**

**Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.**

**To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)– should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.**

**Mahalo for your consideration**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:31:30 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonia Blackiston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Baker and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of HB576, HD3, which seeks to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live.

As currently drafted, this bill takes an important step forward in ensuring equal access to abortion care by allowing advanced practice registered nurses ("APRNs") to provide early in-clinic abortions.

No patient or provider should be forced to travel by boat or by plane to access or provide basic reproductive health care, and that has never been truer than during the pandemic when travel is a public health risk. Paying for transportation and lodging to access abortion care is unnecessarily and sometimes prohibitively costly for patients, providers, and the state, and travel overall is dangerous to public health during the pandemic. To reduce costs and ensure patients and providers can safely access and provide health care in their own communities, qualified licensed providers – like APRNs – should be allowed to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

**Limited access to abortion care during COVID-19 is unsafe, costly, and has a disproportionate impact on patients from neighbor islands.**

- Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.
- People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.
- COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.

- Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.

**Qualified licensed providers can safely provide abortion care.**

- Allowing qualified licensed providers, such as APRNs, to provide in-clinic abortion care would allow people to stay in their communities and receive high-quality care at lower costs and with fewer financial and logistical barriers.
- The science and research are clear: qualified licensed providers can provide early in-clinic abortion care to patients – studies find no difference in abortion safety when compared with physician care.
- Many health care organizations have confirmed that qualified licensed providers can safely provide abortion care, including American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the World Health Organization, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, among many others.
- States across the country – including California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington – allow certain qualified licensed providers to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

**Please pass HB 576, HD 3, to take Hawai‘i one step closer to ensuring that all people in Hawai‘i have equal access to the care they need and deserve. Thank you for your support for this important bill.**

Sincerely,

Sonia Blackiston

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:40:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Peleke Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,**

**My name is Peleke Flores and as a Father, husband, brother, son, cousin, friend, caring individual I am writing today in strong support for HB 576. I am from Waimea, Kaua'i and have 3 daughters, 2 sisters, a wife, a mother, along with 100's of female cousins, nieces, friends, and community members that I believe should have the right to have a choice to their bodies and the care of it.**

**I have recently learned that:**

- Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.**
- People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.**
- COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.**
- Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,**

**Peleke Flores**



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:44:22 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynne Caraway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Any options for a women's choice should be made as easy as possible. Advanced practice nurses work under the direction of a physician and should be able to perform this service if qualified to do so.



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:56:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela Jian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I testify for HB576

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:20:11 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Peleke Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Peleke Flores and I am from Waimea Kaua'i. I am apart of multiple aina based non-profit organizations and grass roots community hui who focuses on suporting our immediate community through Food sustainbality, cultural educations, and resource managements to better the lives of our next generations to come.

Although we highly support dissolving the ADC as a whole because of the lack of trust, wasted public money, and time for everyone. I also do support SB335 (with further amendments) to help bring Hawai'i closer to more sustainble food goals. This bill would require the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to annually lease at least 50% of its land to local food production businesses and 50% for material resources/ sustainable energies that will actually support our local communities. Additionally, it would also require these two agencies to submit yearly leasing activity reports to the legislature. While we believe that a better option would be to dissolve the ADC altogether, approving this bill is a vital first step towards change.

The West side of Kaua'i can be better managed and more productive for our community and our local economy as a whole if done right. We believe we can do it without having to support corn and seed companies. Who grow things that we dont use or eat locally.

Lets build this back up from the ground up!

Mahalo for your time!

Peleke Flores

Waiea, Kaua'i

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:27:43 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Theresa Myers, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an MD and a practicing OB/GYN on Oahu, I strongly support this bill. Research has shown that APRNs who are trained to provide abortion care can provide safe, effective care. Allowing them to fully utilize their skills improves access for patients and helps address the provider shortage in the islands. Preventing highly-trained medically professionals, like APRNs, from offering needed care harms patients, especially patients who struggle to access medical care. Wider access to care for abortion can mean patients are able to be seen and treated earlier, which is safer and cheaper.

Overall, there are many reasons that allowing APRNs to practice the full scope of their abilities is the best idea, but most importantly it will benefit patients, especially underserved patients.

Thank you.

Theresa Myers, MD

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:44:30 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylie Akiona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection*

Aloha e Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Kylie, I am a Native Hawaiian woman, a lifelong resident of Hawai'i, and a student at UH Manoa. **I am writing today to testify in strong support of HB 576.**

Everyone in Hawai'i deserves equal access to healthcare, and reproductive healthcare is NOT separate from any other form of healthcare. We should not have to beg the state for something that should have already been available to us.

I cannot imagine the many difficulties it takes for women outside of O'ahu today just to get an abortion, alongside other healthcare services that are not widely available to those in the outer islands. Personally, I am a victim of sexual assault, and having access to an abortion might have meant life or death. Just thinking about how traumatic it must be for women who have suffered the same or similar experiences without equal access to abortion is disheartening. Especially with the recent attacks on women, and especially women of color, it is imperative to show solidarity with women like me who have and continue to suffer from instances of violence and sexual assault. The pain that unequal access to healthcare has already caused is unacceptable, and cannot be tolerated any longer.

The issue is not about PAs and APRNs having the ability to perform the services that they are trained and qualified for, but if the state is willing to fight for women's rights and equal access to healthcare. It is crucial that you listen to the medical professionals and women testifying in support of this bill. It is *your duty* to listen to the needs of your people. We are begging you to give us the support we desperately need. **The people of Hawai'i deserve equal access to healthcare right now.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Kylie Akiona  
kylieakiona2@gmail.com

Mililani, HI



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:51:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacquie Esser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support. Access to abortion care is essential healthcare. This bill is an important step forward in ensuring equal access to abortaion care for all of Hawaii's people.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:08:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection,

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) in Hawai'i, and I am writing in support of House Bill 576 which would increase access to basic healthcare by allowing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to perform aspiration abortions.

As an OB/GYN, I have been privileged to work with highly skilled APRNs in a variety of clinical settings. They are an integral part of women's healthcare provision throughout Hawai'i. As the majority of aspiration abortions take place in the first trimester, this bill can significantly improve access to comprehensive reproductive care for women in Hawai'i.

We know that aspiration abortion procedures are safe in the hands of trained providers. The safety of trained APRNs performing this procedure has been repeatedly demonstrated through clinical research. This conclusion was confirmed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a non-partisan source that provides objective assessments of science and technology. After a successful multi-year pilot program, California passed a similar law, expanding abortion provision to APRNs, PAs and certified nurse midwives. Ten other states have similar laws.

Hawaii has always led the way in reproductive health care recognizing that abortion access is vital to women's health. The evidence is clear. This is not only safe, but needed. It is time Hawaii expands access to comprehensive women's healthcare, which is why I support HB 576.

Thank you,

Sara Harris, MD

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:04:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Colleen Rost-Banik, and I'm a resident of Honolulu. I teach sociology and women's and gender studies courses within the University of Hawai'i System, and thus have the opportunity to hear from many young people who rely on reproductive services. Young people make clear that reproductive health services are far too few and greatly inaccessible in the Hawaiian Islands - especially if living outside of O'ahu. HB576 would provide the opportunity to extend women's health and reproductive care by allowing advanced practice registered nurses to perform medication or aspiration abortions. I encourage you to please support and pass this bill.

Respectfully,  
Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:29:25 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**To: Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**From: Noel Smith, Medical Assistant**

**Subject: Great support for HB576 relating to Health Care**

**Aloha, my name is Noel Smith. I am from the big island of Hawai'i. As a medical assistant, I can't begin to tell you how many patients have come through seeking abortion access only to find out that services are limited to non-existent on the island. It is unacceptable that patients need to travel to other islands to seek care. Oftentimes these patients were not familiar with the other islands and feared having to travel alone and with little to no extra funds to spend on the process. It is my hope that you can read through these testimonies and understand how much HB576 will impact our communities on the big island of Hawai'i in an effective and caring way.**

**Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.**

**Noel Smith**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:57:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care. People on the west side of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lana'i do NOT have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers - such as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) need to be allowed to provide early abortion care. It is more important than ever that patients and health care providers are NOT forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

Please support HB576!!  
Mahalo nui loa for your consideraton.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:22:47 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Kiana Otsuka and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576.

Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.

People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.

COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread. Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)– should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Kiana Otsuka

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:33:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,**

**I am writing today in support for HB 576 because:**

- **Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.**
- **People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.**

**COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.**

**Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.**

**To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)– should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.**

**Thank you for time.**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:06:39 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doede	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

“those supporting HI HB 576 seek to be opportune during this COVID pandemic to push for expansion of provider availability when abortion rates are decreasing in general, even before more restrictive access policies had been in place nationally. This push for increased access in view of the rights of the unborn and the emotional trauma associated therewith, is unconscionable.”

We need to stop ending life, and start educating on how to live life fully through conscious decisions regarding mental and physical health, as well as promote true spiritual health that protects and supports life.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:19:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Rivers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Womens health is very important the vitality of the Hawaii community and to me.

HB576 will reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) – should be allowed to provide early abortion care. With COVID reducing access to safe travel interisland, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Julie Rivers

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:24:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:35:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support nurse practitioner functioning at full capacity of their license to provide constitutionally protected healthcare for women. It's evidenced base healthcare



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:04:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill expanding acces to safe, legal abortion to Hawaii's women!

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:23:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marilyn b lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am in full support of HB576 HD3 enabling aspiration abortion to be performed by certified and qualified Advanced Practice Nurses. Because of the shortage of physicians in Hawaii and especially on the Neighbor Islands, the access to abortion for many women is severely curtailed. This is a safe procedure when performed by a qualified practitioner, and will increase access for many of our Hawaii women. Abortion is legal in Hawaii, and we were the first state to vote to approve Rowe vs Wade. There are no legal impediments, only a lack of qualified personnel licensed to perform such a procedure. Passage of this bill will be a life saver for many women, and prevent the eventual injury or death of desperate women without access to what is a constitutional right.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:24:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vivien Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please **oppose** this bill. As a physician, I believe by voting "yes", you are compromising the standard of medical care in Hawaii.

This bill will not ensure quality healthcare to child-bearing age women in this state. In fact, by passing this bill, you are allowing non-physician medical provider (APRN) in this state to perform **surgical** procedure in an outpatient setting. Suction abortion performed during 1st trimester is an invasive **surgical** procedure. It is irresponsible to allow non-physician medical providers to perform **surgery** when their training (only 1-3 years beyond Bachelor degree in Nursing) is limited as compared to Obstetrician-Gynecologists (physicians who have had 4 years of residency training beyond 4 years of medical school after BS degree) and therefore will have lack of experience to recognize or handle complications resulting from this **surgical** procedure. The question in this bill is whether APRNs are allowed to practice independently or under direct supervision of physician/physicians. The bill appears to allow the former.

Please vote **NO**.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:59:33 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cristina Vocalan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Cristina Vocalan and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576.

I am a mother of two daughters, a Registered Nurse, and have committed most of my career to supporting equitable access to care. Reproductive rights are important to women's socioeconomic well-being and overall health and this will provide much needed expanded access to care for women across our state. We need this today and for our future well being.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Cristina Vocalan  
Mililani, 96789

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:04:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alesa Ainalani Kneubuhl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A woman along with her health care supporters, practitioners, doctors and case management specialist should have the right to choose any services deemed applicable and supportive.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:02:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clare-Marie Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Clare-Marie and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576 that authorizes advanced practice registered nurses to perform medication or aspiration abortions. I am a third-year medical student and an aspiring obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN). I support this bill because as a medical student, I have been involved in the care of several patients who have received abortions. Every patient I have had the privilege of helping to care for has expressed their immense gratitude for their right to choose, which is a fundamental component of reproductive justice. Authorizing advanced practice registered nurses to perform medication or aspiration abortions is critical in expanding this access to abortion care across Hawai'i, especially our rural O'ahu and neighbor island communities of Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and the Big Island who have limited access to family planning services. Several states including OR, MT, VT, and NH have already passed legislation to allow non-physicians to perform medication and aspiration abortions. I hope that Hawaii will join these states in expanding access to abortion care through the authorization of advanced practice registered nurses to perform medical and aspiration abortions to support reproductive health care and rights across Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Clare-Marie

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:03:22 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Please defer for the following reasons.

With the introduction of two resolutions HCR 123 and 124 it is apparent that the scope of practice for APRNs needs to be reeled in.

Both these resolutions address concerns regarding APRNs and Physician Assistants. Therefore passing a bill at this time to increase scope of practice is premature, until a full understanding of what increasing scopes of practice entails.

HCR123, the Board of Nursing and Hawaii Medical Board are requested to convene a working group to determine the gaps in access to health care and the scope of care that advanced practice registered nurses may be allowed to perform or provide;

\*\*The scope of procedures and care that advanced practice registered nurses should be allowed to provide;

\*\*A comparative study of the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses in other states and Hawaii; and

\*\*An evaluation of how advanced practice registered nurses would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the State;

HCR124 Speaks directly to the challenges of expanding scopes of practice and seeks to resolve that by evaluating the scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to gain a holistic view of what their scope of practice could and should be in Hawaii; and

(1) There is a need to make clear distinctions to understand the differences between physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants and what each profession's scope of practice in Hawaii should be; now, therefore,

(2) the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct an analysis of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants; and

in its analysis, the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to include the following:

- (1) The full scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants based on national professional guidelines;
- (2) The distinctions between the educational training and scope of practice between physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants; and
- (3) A comparative study of how Hawaii differs from other states regarding the scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants.



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:29:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alina Mokan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB576 HD3.

I believe this is not a safe solution for more accessible healthcare. Aspiration abortions sometimes result in severe complications including but not limited to cervical lacerations, uterine perforation, and hemorrhaging. When these abortions are performed in remote places for convenience sake, away from a hospital or without a licensed doctor, it actually puts women in greater danger. This is not the answer, please vote NO on HB576 HD3.

Thank you for your time,

Alina Mokan

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:01:28 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Xenia Owen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Xenia Owen and I am writing today in support for HB 576

I write to you in support of this bill because I am an advocate for reproductive rights. It is imperative that women have access to abortions. Women on outer-islands face greater obstacles in terms of access to abortion facilities. These obstacles manifest in the form of the need for traveling long distances-- opening the door to a multitude of potential issues. Issues such as delayed care, the need for emergency follow up care, strains on mental health and higher expenses. In 2016, the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* upheld that increased driving distances can contribute to an undue burden on access to abortion care-- now factor in the need for air travel. Allowing licensed providers to perform in-clinic abortion care could lessen the burden on access to abortion care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Xenia Owen

xeniaowen808@gmail.com

96768

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:02:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mikaila Samsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Mikaila Samsen and I am writing today in support of HB 576.

I am a 21-year-old woman living in Maui County, studying at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Throughout my life, I have been privileged with access to reproductive healthcare through my parent's insurance providers. Additionally, I have been lucky enough to reside in places where there is a Planned Parenthood nearby.

During my internship with Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i I have learned about the lack of access to reproductive healthcare services throughout this state. The communities on Kauai, Lanai, Molokai, and Big Island are unable to have the same access to services such as abortion care because there are no Planned Parenthood facilities. Women on these islands are only able to receive abortion care if they have a health care provider willing to do this procedure and if their insurance will cover the cost.

Many women are forced to travel to our Maui or Oahu clinics for abortion care if they live on the neighboring islands. Inter-island travel is not commonly a simple process for women seeking abortion care. Depending on what type of insurance the individual has, they might have to pay for the travel out of pocket. Regardless of the airfare cost, it is important to consider that these individuals may already have children to care for. It is also important to consider that it can be hard for some people to take work off to travel inter-island, especially due to the changes of COVID-19.

I find it frustrating that the state of Hawai'i protects women's right to abortion in writing, but in reality, not all women have this access. I believe that increasing privileges for other healthcare professionals (such as APRN's) to provide abortion care in the state of Hawai'i will be a monumental step for our state. Women in all parts of our state should be able to make the decision about becoming a parent, regardless of their socioeconomic status, race, or identity. I urge you to pass HB 576 in order for all women in the state of Hawai'i to have equitable access to abortion care.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Mikaila Samsen

[mbsamsen@hawaii.edu](mailto:mbsamsen@hawaii.edu)

96779

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:13:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please approve HB576. We do not have sufficient abortion providers on our islands to enable women to obtain this service in a timely and safe manner. The burdens are too great when a woman must fly to another island to obtain a medical service that is time-sensitive. This bill can help expand services in a safe and appropriate manner, with appropriate training and supervision. These medical procedures are much more minor than the risks of proceeding to term and giving birth, and we allow non-physicians to attend birth and delivery.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and for protecting reproductive rights of women and girls.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:36:58 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection*

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Erika Kim and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576.

I grew up in Honolulu, so I was very fortunate to have been in close proximity to health providers, including physicians when necessary, for most of my life. Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to ONLY physicians. This means that for those who weren't born, raised, and now live in town, like on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i, do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island. **The limited availability of abortion physicians in these areas ultimately leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.**

Furthermore, travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)– should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Erika Kim

[erika-ann.kim@yale.edu](mailto:erika-ann.kim@yale.edu)

96819



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:39:06 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support options that provide better health care and services for women in Hawaii as they are faced with what are sometimes very difficult choices. Yes on this legislation.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:50:41 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

It's safe and smart.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:05:28 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca DiLiberto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Member:

My name is Rebecca DiLiberto and I am writing again in support of HB576. Every island in our state needs access to quality reproductive healthcare for everyone, not just the more populace islands. I had the unfortunate need to terminate a pregnancy in 2017, even here on Maui access to these sometimes lifesaving procedures is limited. Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care. On Maui, a doctor has to fly from Oahu twice a month to perform abortions at Planned Parenthood, and sometimes the two week gap where a doctor here is unable to perform the procedure can mean the difference between a positive outcome and a negative one. Had I not known that I was pregnant early on, that two week gap would have meant the difference between being able to receive the procedure or not. This should never be the case. On Lanai, Hawaii Island, Molokai and Kauai do not have access to doctors to perform this necessary procedure, and have to fly to Maui or Oahu in order to get access, potentially accruing extra high and unnecessary medical costs. This becomes cost prohibitive to lower income women.

I was lucky enough to be able to get access to the procedure that I needed, but others are not nearly as lucky as I am. Please pass this bill and expand equitable access to reproductive healthcare to all women living in our state.

Mahalo

Rebecca DiLiberto

Kahului Maui

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Committee on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 19, 2021 (9:30 am)  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229  
Re: Testimony in support of HB576 (relating to health care)

Aloha Senator Jarrett Keohokalole (Chair), Senator Rosalyn H. Baker (Chair),  
Senator Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), and Committee Members,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB576 HD3  
(relating to health care)**.

This bill is not about the provision of abortion care, which is already available to women in Hawaii, by current law. HB576 is about **access** to care, which is inequitable across the islands. All women in Hawaii have the legal right to obtain an abortion, but rights mean nothing if you live in Kaunakakai, Molokai, or Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Island, or Lihue, Kauai, among other locations. Women need to fly to Oahu for services, which is expensive, and takes time. In the case of Maui, physicians fly to the island to provide reproductive health services, which is also expensive, and takes time. All of these services provided to neighboring islands come to a grinding halt in a pandemic, when flights are limited. The result is that women have legal, but not actual rights to abortions, part of standard reproductive health care.

Allowing “physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses” to “safely and effectively provide aspiration abortion care” relieves the above barriers to women’s healthcare, as stated clearly in the bill. There are methodologically-sound studies showing that nonphysician clinicians offer the same level of safety as physicians (e.g., Freedman et al. 1986; Weitz et al. 2013). The research supports similar laws in a number of other states (e.g., California: nonphysician clinicians; Vermont: physician assistants since 1975; Montana; Oregon; New Hampshire). Let’s follow their lead, and diminish the perils imposed by geography on women’s health. Plus, please implement this bill as soon as possible, given the needs of women on the neighboring islands

In conclusion, **I urge the passage of HB576 HD3**, although women by law have the right to terminate any fetus, not just a nonviable one. **Do not remove our rights.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*Susan J. Wurtzburg*

Susan J. Wurtzburg Ph.D.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:14:39 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bradford Baang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB576. Too many of our women and young girls don't have access to reproductive health services. This bill will also help prevent unnecessary hardship caused by unwanted pregnancies. Please pass HB576 to assist our women in need of better reproductive health services.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:17:09 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good for the children especially!

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:27:21 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Banner Fanene	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a legalize Murder Bill. Do not Pass.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:30:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neal MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees of the House of Representatives, Hawai'i State Legislature:

I support the passage of HB 576. As an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, I honor the freedom of conscience in matters of religion and ethics, and am therefore supportive of a woman's right to choose in matters of reproductive health, including the right to safe abortions. The United Church of Christ is on record of supporting this legal right even if on a personal level, its members may have differing views on the issue of abortion.

The State of Hawai'i has a long and distinguished history in supporting a woman's right to choose. This bill will augment that commendable history.

The right of reproductive choice is only viable when abortion services can be accessed promptly, conveniently, safely, and without undue cost. These services are not always available in many areas of our islands, especially on the Islands of Kaua'i, Molokai, and LÄ• na'i, because physicians are scarce or non-existent for this procedure. Women in remote areas of our islands often have to travel by air or by ferry just to reach a qualified physician for abortion services. Women in all of our islands sometimes experience delays in access to abortion because of the scarcity of physician services. These circumstances create enormous barriers that add time, travel costs, and potential COVID exposure just to access a time-sensitive and safe medical procedure. The earlier an abortion is performed, the safer it is.

HB 576 will authorize fully capable APRN's (Advanced Practice Registered Nurses) to perform early abortion services in clinical settings, via medication or aspiration, and in so doing will expand the number of highly qualified medical providers for legal abortion services. APRN's have specialized training and are already permitted to perform a wide range of medical procedures in clinically safe settings, including the full term delivery of



babies. It is illogical and inappropriate to burden women's right of reproductive chose by restricting early (first trimester) abortion services to be provided only by physicians when APRN's are fully qualified to do so.

I ask you to approve HB 576 and send it to the House of Representatives for passage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev, Neal MacPherson

Retired minister, United Church of Christ

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**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:41:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Welina me ke aloha:

Access to abortion care is access to comprehensive health care. The people of Hawai'i should have access to quality abortion care on every island. In addition to travel restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic, everyday travel restrictions in Hawai'i (the cost of interisland air travel, the cost of lodging, the cost of caregiving should a patient need to travel alone, etc.) are too much of a cost for people already having to pay the cost of healthcare, with or without the privilege of health insurance.

Abortion care is a deeply personal health decision that is unique to every person who seeks it. It is not the place of anyone beyond that person to judge the decision itself or to know the details of said decision; the purview of the choice and the consequences are theirs alone.

As with any other health care decision, our community should support equity in access so that everyone can get the healthcare they seek. I strongly support HB576.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Jennifer Kau'i Young

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:44:15 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support allowing trained RNs to provide clinical abortions for the safety of those who might not otherwise have an MD who can provide that.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:50:50 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Mahalo.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:54:56 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Janik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There are not enough physicans in Hawaii.

This bill assists in providing care

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:57:10 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Your consideration is appreciated.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:11:15 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chantel Galdo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Chantel and I am writing today in *strong support for HB 576*.

Reproductive healthcare is a human right. Especially during a global pandemic, it is important that patients and healthcare providers are not forced to travel to other islands to receive reproductive health care. This is costly to patients, providers, and the state, and is a danger to public health. This disproportionately affects those on neighboring islands who do not have access to a local care provider on their own home island.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during this pandemic, qualified licensed providers should be allowed to provide early abortion care. Please support HB 576.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Chantel Galdo

Chantel.galdo@gmail.com

Honolulu, 96826

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:11:16 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
robin knox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

support



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:13:53 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elaine E Rossi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

I am writing today in strong support for HB 576- my name is Elaine Rossi and I live on Oahu.

Reproductive rights matter to us all, and that means they matter to our family and friends on the neighbor islands. Hawaii must enable more services including safe abortion care to be available to everyone including those who live in more remote area and on Kauai, Lanai and Molokai - this means authorizing qualified licensed providers (such as advanced practice registered nurses called APRNs) to provide these services.

Services are not equitably available in Hawaii: the severe and growing shortage of physicians throughout the state of Hawaii means we need to allow more qualified licenced providers to meet the needs of people where they live: these dedicated qualified providers serve communities where servcies are needed and they should be allowed to fully serve the reproductive health needs of people in these communities.

Travel costs, child care, time off from work to travel, access to a car or public transport, and other socio-economic factors related to where residents live should not determine how families and individuals decide when and whether to have a child.

It should not put their health at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Elaine E Rossi

rossideleon@gmail.com

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:19:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill because it gives greater reproductive access so women can choose the best decision for their family. It is particularly hard on neighbor islands to get access to reproductive care and this would be one step that would help woman make critical health decisions and increase reproductive care for their families.

Mahalo,  
Fitz

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:21:57 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Senate Committee on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection.**

**Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Baker, Vice-Chairs Baker and Chang and esteemed members of the committees,**

**My name is Christopher Edwards. I am writing today in support of HB 576.**

Access to safe and reliable healthcare providers of abortions is a critically important piece of the healthcare pie. Our residents need your support. Access to abortion services is not a universally accessible reality for our residents. Access can be closer than ever before. Please support HB 576.

Today there are not enough providers in our geographically and economically separated state. Opening up the opportunity for more trained providers is what we need to expand critical access to abortions for our citizenry.

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,**

**Christopher Edwards**

**Honolulu, HI 96822**

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 576, HD3**

TO: Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, & Health Committee Members  
Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang, & Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: March 19, 2019 (9:30 AM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 576, HD 3. This bill is needed to improve access to early in-clinic abortion care for those residents who reside in rural parts of our state, including those on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. Traveling to O'ahu poses great difficulties for women who have low incomes as well as those women who have familial obligations and professional duties that make interisland travel difficult. The ongoing pandemic exacerbates these barriers for time-sensitive care and places women at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

[The American Public Health Association notes that APRNs, among other medical professionals, are "well positioned within the health care system to address women's needs for comprehensive primary care and preventive reproductive health services that include abortion care."](#) We also concur with the ACLU of Hawai'i that Hawai'i's current law, which limits early in-clinic abortion care to physicians, "imposes serious barriers [to] abortion care, a constitutionally protected, fundamental right."

HHRC's mission to is to promote health, reduce harm, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DATE: Friday, March 19, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Dear Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, and Members of the Committee:

Save Medicaid Hawaii writes in strong support of HB 576, HD3, which seeks to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have equal access to abortion care, no matter their income or where they live.

No patient should be forced to travel by boat or by plane to access basic reproductive health care, and that has never been truer than during the pandemic when travel is a public health risk. Paying for transportation and lodging to access abortion care is costly both for patients, providers, and the state, not to mention dangerous to public health.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) – should be allowed to provide early abortion care.

**Limited access to abortion care during COVID-19 is unsafe, costly, and has a disproportionate impact on patients from neighbor islands.**

Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care.

- People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.
- COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.
- Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.

**Qualified licensed providers can safely provide abortion care.**

Allowing qualified licensed providers, such as APRNs and PAs, to provide in-clinic abortion care would allow people to stay in their communities and receive high-quality care at lower costs and with fewer financial and logistical barriers.

**Save Medicaid Hawaii**, a network of people advocating for NO CUTS in Medicaid and working towards a stronger health care system in Hawai'i that provides high quality universal health care for all. SMH was founded in 2018 when the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid first came under threat from the current administration in Washington .DC.

Email: [savemedicaidhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:savemedicaidhawaii@gmail.com) Visit our webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveMedicaidHawaii/>

***SAVE MEDICAID HAWAII: Medicaid is Good for Everyone in Hawai'i***

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- The science and research are clear: qualified licensed providers can provide early in-clinic abortion care to patients – studies find no difference in abortion safety when compared with physician care.
- Many health care organizations have confirmed that qualified licensed providers can safely provide abortion care, including American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the World Health Organization, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, among many others.
- States across the country – including California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington – allow certain qualified licensed providers to provide early in-clinic abortion care.

Thank you for your consideration and support for this important legislation

Respectfully,

*Doris Segal Matsunaga, MPH*  
On behalf of *Save Medicaid Hawaii*

**Save Medicaid Hawaii**, a network of people advocating for NO CUTS in Medicaid and working towards a stronger health care system in Hawai'i that provides high quality universal health care for all. SMH was founded in 2018 when the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid first came under threat from the current administration in Washington .DC.  
Email: [savemedicaidhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:savemedicaidhawaii@gmail.com) Visit our webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveMedicaidHawaii/>

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:52:37 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Sarah Michal Hamid and I am writing today in support for HB 576.

Abortion is vital healthcare, and deserves to be treated as such in the state of Hawai'i. But unfortunately, Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care. During the COVID-19 pandemic this sexist reality has only worsened, with travel restrictions and limited physicians in rural communities. People on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island. This desmonstrates how COVID-19 policies in the state have largely been "gender blind", thus ignoring the specific and realistic services that women and non-men need in Hawai'i. Forcing patients to travel during the pandemic in order to recieve vital healthcare is absolutely abhorrent. Travel is not only financially feasible but for those facing intimate partner violence, caregiving responsabilites and work travel to another island may be downright impossible.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) – should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care. I support HB 576 because I know that abortion is healthcare, and our health and wellbeing matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Sarah Michal Hamid

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:39:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support increased access to reproductive health services for neighbor-island residents and women's choice. Thus I support this measure.

Mahalo,

Keiko



**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:48:12 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Terry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ability to have an early abortion is a choice that all women should have access to, regardless of whether they choose to or not. To deny this choice to women, especially more vulnerable populations from smaller communities on neighbor islands, is to decide to put their lives at increased risk. Whether you personally believe this choice is moral or not has nothing to do with giving the option to women who need it. I urge you to pass this bill for the health and wellbeing of women across our state.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:52:53 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Health, and Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Ingrid Peterson and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576. I am 66 years old and have believed in a woman's right to choose an abortion since I was in high school here before the Roe v. Wade decision was made. I even wrote a school research paper then about reproductive rights!

I realize that I am privileged because I've always lived where abortion access was close by. But I've learned that my sisters on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and LÄ• na'i, and the west side of Hawai'i do not have access to a local abortion care provider and are forced to travel long distances to access care, increasing costs for travel, lodging, and childcare. People on Maui only have access to a provider twice each month and the provider must fly from another island.

This is because Hawai'i's outdated law restricts the provision of early in-clinic abortion care to physicians. The limited availability of abortion physicians leads to higher costs, unnecessary travel, long wait times, and delays to time-sensitive care. COVID-19 has worsened existing financial and logistical barriers to care, including making travel to access abortion care exceedingly difficult, expensive, and risky to viral spread.

Travel to reach care can be an insurmountable barrier for people who already face systemic barriers to care, especially survivors of intimate partner violence, people of color, people with low incomes, rural people, and young people.

To reduce costs and ensure patients can safely access health care, especially during COVID-19, qualified licensed providers – like advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)– should be allowed to provide early abortion care, it is more important than ever that we ensure that patients and health care providers are not forced to travel to another island for reproductive health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Ingrid Peterson

2ingmail@verizon.net

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:54:19 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

By allowing APRNs to perform simple abortioins, this bill would improve access to reproductive health for people in the outer islands.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:03:26 AM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Bilyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 576 HB 3 to increase access to abortion services to specifically Neighbor Island Women and the entire state by utilizing qualified APRNs.

Patricia L Bilyk, RN, MSN, MPH

96817

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:06:00 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
noel kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i has long been in the vanguard of support for women's reproduction rights. The availability of abortion providers is a key to exercising this rights and unfortunately there are physician shortages in our state which limit the access of some women on various islands. This bill HB576 allows APRNS to conduct early semester aortions in clinical settings. It is safe and provides access to those who do not have it. Please support it.

Noel Kent Professor Emeritus UH Manoa

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:09:45 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB576 that allows Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to provide in-clinic early abortions so that everyone can have SAFE, LEGAL (hopefully rare) abortions.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:37:27 AM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
arielle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The proposed bill would make allowances for the woman to be put at further risk. Please vote "NO" to this bill. Thank you!



Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
*Senate Committee on Health*



Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
*Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection*

Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Hawaii State Capitol via Video Conference

***In support of H.B. 576, HD3, Relating to health care.***

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair/Vice-Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Emma Ishihara, and I am a lifelong resident of Hawai‘i and a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Growing up in Hawai‘i, I have witnessed the difficulties of living on an island in the middle of the ocean with limited access to services and products. My grandparents worked on plantations on the Windward Side of our island in the 1930s -'40s and labored to afford me the opportunities and resources that I have access to today. Now, it is our turn to make sure that the next generations have access to opportunities and resources that will allow them to flourish as residents of Hawai‘i.

Today, I would like to submit my strong support for H.B. 576, HD3, Relating to Health Care. The people of Hawai‘i are currently suffering from a lack of access to reproductive health services, especially abortion services. This especially impacts people from **low-income neighborhoods and families**, many of whom are of minority, such as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, descent.

Currently, a person who would like to go through with an abortion procedure must take great time and effort to connect with abortion clinics and **fly to O‘ahu or Maui** just to have their procedure. By the time many people would be able to get to those clinics, a relatively simple procedure like an aspiration abortion could no longer be an option and they may have to **abort later in their pregnancies** because of the current lack of access.

This bill would greatly expand peoples’ access to this essential health procedure and support reproductive justice across the Hawaiian Islands. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and Physicians Assistants (PAs) live in areas of Hawai‘i where doctors who are currently allowed to perform abortion procedures do not. The people in those areas would greatly benefit from the expansion of the scope of allowed practices that APRNs and Pas provide.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill,

Emma M N Ishihara.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:09:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian R Curl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe this to be a moral bill that provides women with the right to make their own choice without interference and obstruction by people who wish to take away their rights as individuals and as women.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:10:25 AM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JoAnn Bishop Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it will allow women living on islands other than Oahu to receive earlier and easier access to reproductive health care.

Thank you

JoAnn Bishop Freed

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:06:07 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynne wood	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose hb576

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:08:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Advanced Practice Registered Nurses providing in clinic early abortions

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:24:29 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Max Towey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:40:30 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Enabling more medical professionals (including physician assistants -as a prior draft of this bill authorized) to perform aspiration abortion care will free up our limited force of physicians to provide more specialized treatment. The net result is greater access to reproductive health care (and health care in general) - particularly in our remote, neighbor island communities. The improved access will ripple through our state.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:51:10 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Swenson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support



**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:02:18 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Ishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's increase access so that women can actually exercise choice in how to care for themselves and thier families.

**LATE**

To: Senate Committee on Health

Senator Jarrett Keohokale, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: HB 576\_HD3 – Relating to Health Care

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) in Hawai'i, and I am writing in strong support of House Bill 576 which would increase access to basic healthcare by allowing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to perform aspiration abortions.

As an OB/GYN, I have been privileged to work with highly skilled APRNs and PAs in a variety of clinical settings. They are an integral part of women's healthcare provision throughout Hawai'i. As the majority of aspiration abortions take place in the first trimester, this bill can significantly improve access to comprehensive reproductive care for women in Hawai'i.

The safety of trained APRNs and PAs performing this procedure has been repeatedly demonstrated through clinical research. This conclusion was confirmed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a non-partisan source that provides objective assessments of science and technology. And after a successful multi-year pilot program, California passed a similar law, expanding abortion provision to APRNs, PAs and certified nurse midwives. Ten other states have similar laws.

This bill is essential to expanding abortion access, particularly on neighbor islands. Hawaii has always led the way in reproductive health care recognizing that abortion access is vital to women's health. The evidence is clear. This is not only safe, but needed. It is time Hawaii expands access to comprehensive women's healthcare, which is why I support HB 576.

Thank you,

Courtney Kerestes, MD

**LATE**

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hearing: March 19, 2021, 9:30 AM  
Via Videoconference**

By Hawai'i – American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA)



**HB 576 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, and Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB576.**

This measure authorizes Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to independently provide medication or aspiration abortions, recognizing the safe and effective care provided by APRNs within the appropriate specialized scope of practice. APRNs are primary care providers who may practice independently based on their practice specialty, including women's health or as a certified nurse midwife. An APRN's education and training include, but are not limited to, a graduate level degree in nursing and national certification that is specific to the APRN's practice specialty, in accordance with nationally recognized standards of practice. This measure affirms the APRN's professional responsibility to practice within the scope afforded by these national standards and current Hawai'i statutes.

Hawai'i-ANA agrees with the Hawai'i Board of Nursing's on-going support for recognizing the broad scope of practice underpinned by education, clinical training, and experience, afforded to APRNs within each specialty recognized in Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

This measure also improves on equitable access to care for neighbor island women who are currently under-served by qualified licensed health care providers. Allowing residents to stay in their own communities to receive high quality care with fewer financial and logistical barriers is a significant benefit of this measure.

**Hawai'i-ANA respectfully requests that HB576 be passed through this committee.** Thank you for your continued support for measures that address the need for improving access to safe and effective healthcare provided by all primary healthcare providers in communities throughout Hawai'i.

Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association

President: Katie Kemp, BAN, RN-BC

[president@hawaii-ana.org](mailto:president@hawaii-ana.org)

Executive Director: Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC

[executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org](mailto:executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org)

phone (808) 779-3001  
500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E  
Honolulu Hawai'i USA 96825

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:29:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Support**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:29:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Support**

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:47:46 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eli Blanchard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The act of abortion was ruled on using on faulty science and poor reasoning. Now that more has come to light it is clear what is developing in the womb after conception is a child from the get go, and 100% human.

Fetus is a latin word meaning baby esp: of any species. If you dont know, a baby cow is a calf, baby chicken is a chick, Baby goat is a Kid, etc. We use the word Baby for a baby human or as a general term for young of any species. The Government so called scientists (deceptionists) want to use confusing language (just as the pope would speak latin to the people) so they call the child an unknow word and try and convey a new and fraudulent meening to it.

The developing body albeit developing is 100% human, It has a unique set of human DNA, naturally formed. Much about the human is developing till the age of 20. Let me ask, Should a parent be able to argue that because of the grown son or daughters continued dependency on the parents they may be declared to be a developing fetus and merely aborted by simply tossing them in a bio hazard chipper? That is your government scientist lojic, not myne and not the american peoples. This is murder at any age and it must stop.

You are demanded to Intrepret the Constitution, Nuremburg Code of ethics, and Human Rights from their original intent and deliver to each person, citizen or not, their right to life and bodily autonomy, etc. People are Innocent until proven guilty. We the people Declare that even though the forign vessle (FV)(as you may see it) has not been docked the FV retains its rights as a human, this remains the case even if the ultrasound has an anomaly.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:07:29 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider healthcare to be a fundamental citizen right.

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:10:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Emma Broderick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A woman's ability to have access to reproductive health services is essential and it is vital that she is given the choice as to what she does with her body.



**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:17:06 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joan Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a reasonable change that allows people to get the services they need in our sometimes sketchy island health care.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:38:12 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Improving the access of pregnancy termination is an endorsement of the absolute right of a woman's right to choose.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:13:49 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Clement	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB576, which would increase access to reproductive health services for neighbor-island residents.

I urge you to represent me and all your constituents by supporting HB576.

Mahalo,

Catherine Clement

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:44:45 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Please facilitate increased access to reproductive health services for neighbor-island residents.**

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:59:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elaine Wender	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Neighbor island residents need this.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:11:19 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB576 to allow advanced practice registered nurses to provide in-clinic early abortions because I favor increased access to safe medical abortions and increased access to reproductive health services for neighbor-island residents. I am a life-long Hawaii resident with past 30 years on Kauai & Hawaii islands. I have personally been impacted by these issues and strongly urge the committee to support HB576. Thank you.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:12:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB576.

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:16:13 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this Bill.



**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 6:47:28 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lehua Fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB576

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:13:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allison Jacobson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Allison Jacobson and I am writing today in strong support for HB 576.

Reproductive rights and abortion access are essential to our community here on Kauai. We do not have access to a local care provider so we are forced to travel to Oahu which makes access to care either very expensive or completely inaccessible. People who already face systemic barriers to care are likely to not be able to access the care they need, which is why it's so important that this bill passes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Allison Jacobson

adnojacobson@gmail.com

96703

**LATE**

**HB-576-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:40:45 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.