

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB1 SD2
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

REP. DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

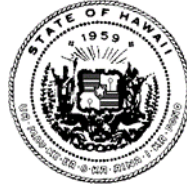
REP. DAVID A. TARNAS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 15, 2023

Room Number: 325

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports access to and
- 3 protection for safe reproductive health care services for women.
- 4 DOH defers to the relevant professional boards regarding issues of scope of practice.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 6 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.
- 7

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 14, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1 SD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Hearing: March 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, provides comments, and defers to the Departments of the Attorney General and Commerce & Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

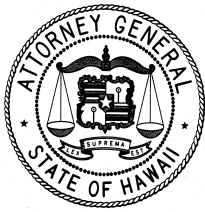
PURPOSE: This measure amends Hawaii law to protect an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy within the boundaries of the State, including minors, and to declare that the laws of other states authorizing civil actions and criminal prosecutions for receiving, seeking, providing, or aiding and abetting the provision of reproductive health care services are contrary to the State's public policy and to prohibit recognition and enforcement of other states' laws that impose civil or criminal liability relating to reproductive health care services.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's efforts to support greater access to all reproductive health services, including abortions, and authorizing physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to help increase such access. We support an individual's right to make health

care decisions, including all reproductive health care, in a supportive and stress-free environment.

However, the current developments in the national legal landscape threaten individuals' right to privacy at a time when health care decisions should be made in a stress-free environment. Aggressive legal actions also threaten healthcare providers and our staff who assist in accessing or providing services. This bill helps further clarify and provides some protections from the threat of litigation or harassment for the provision of legal health care services in our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1, S.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS
AND ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Christopher J.I. Leong or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chairs Belatti and Tarnas and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General strongly supports the passage of this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to bolster the State's policy to protect an individual's reproductive autonomy, particularly in light of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022). This bill would strengthen and clarify the State's protections for reproductive health care services, and protect against potential efforts by other states to impose civil or criminal liability or professional discipline in connection with reproductive health care services that are lawful in the State. The bill is consistent with the State's longstanding protection for reproductive rights.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

KOMIKINA PONO KIWILO O HAWAI‘I

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411, HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: (808) 586-8636 · FAX: (808) 586-8655 · TDD: (808) 586-8692

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 1, S.D.2

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services (on the basis of disability). The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.B. No. 1, in its original form has three purposes: 1) to amend HRS § 453-16 to allow licensed physician assistants and licensed advanced practice registered nurses to perform abortions; 2) to declare that laws of other states are contrary to State public policy and unenforceable in Hawai‘i state courts, where those laws authorize a civil action against persons who terminate or seek to terminate a pregnancy, perform or induce the termination of a pregnancy, knowingly aid or abet the termination of a pregnancy, or attempt or intend to do so; and, 3) to prohibit State application, enforcement, or satisfaction of subpoenas, decisions, or requests of other states that arise out of such other state laws creating civil or criminal liability relating to termination of a pregnancy.

S.B. No. 1, S.D.1, was amended to insert a new Section 1 of the bill (taken from Section 1 of S.B. No. 896, S.D.1) to provide a robust purpose section for the bill, reaffirming that the policy of the State and the Hawai'i State Constitution guarantee the fundamental rights of equality, liberty, and privacy, which include the right to make reproductive health decisions and decide whether to bear a child or obtain an abortion. In order to affirm and bolster protection of these rights, it is the purpose of the bill to “to bolster the State's policy to protect an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy within the boundaries of the State, including minors, and clarify that the provision of certain services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action against certain licensed professionals in certain circumstances,”

HCRC supports S.B. No. 1, S.D.2, specifically the insertion of the strong purpose clause in Section 1 of the bill , in S.D. 1 and the new HRS §___-7, on page 13 of the S.D.1, and the new §636C-___, on page 41 of the S.D.1, that declare laws of other states that create civil actions against persons for terminating a pregnancy, or for performing or inducing or aiding and abetting the termination of a pregnancy are contrary to State public policy, and prohibit recognition and enforcement of other states' laws that impose civil or criminal liability relating to termination of a pregnancy. S.B. No. 1, S.D.2 added additional language regarding laws from other jurisdictions authorizing civil action or criminal prosecution are against Hawai'i public policy.

HCRC support for this bill is rooted in the context of a frontal assault on constitutional and civil rights at the federal level and in many states. A U.S. Supreme Court conservative super-majority appears poised to eviscerate constitutional rights jurisprudence that we have taken for granted for a generation. In a parade of horrors, the Court has turned the clock back on abortion and reproductive rights and establishment of religion, while limiting state regulation of guns and open carry laws with expansive reading of 2nd amendment rights, giving notice that other hard-won rights are in its crosshairs. Constitutional protections that are in jeopardy include unenumerated privacy protections (right to contraception, striking down state law criminalization of same-sex relationships, and marriage equality). In this context, it is prudent for Hawai'i to renew its state commitment to hard-won rights that we have exercised for generations. Reviewing and shoring up our state statutory protections as a “backstop” against the onslaught on fundamental rights that has been unleashed is a necessary first step.

For nearly fifty years, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* established a fundamental right for an individual to access abortion based on a constitutional right to privacy. However, in 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in *Dobbs v. Jackson Woman's Health Organization*, paving the way for individual states to restrict and even eliminate individuals' right to these medical decisions for themselves and/or based on the advice of individuals' medical advisors.

An increasing number of states have enacted or proposed restrictions on an individual's right to reproductive freedoms through civil and criminal penalties imposed on individuals who knowingly aid or abet the performance or inducement of the termination of a pregnancy. The HCRC supports S.B. No. 1's declaration that these laws are contrary to the public policy of the State, shall not be enforceable in any state court, and shall not be the basis for the granting of legal or equitable relief in any state court.

Historically, the State of Hawai'i has had a strong commitment to the protection of civil rights, found in Art. I § 5 of the State Constitution which states that "[n]o person . . . shall be denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex, or ancestry." This provision grants our citizens the fundamental right to be free from race, religion, sex or ancestry discrimination, and was first adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1950 (ratified as Article I, §4), prior to Hawai'i becoming a state. Const. Conv. of 1950, v. 1. There is no counterpart civil rights clause in the United States Constitution.

Hawai'i has a proud civil rights history. We were the first state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and we have an ERA in our State Constitution Bill of Rights. Article I, §3. And, we have an express right to privacy in our State Constitution as well. Article I, §6. We were the first state to recognize women's right to choose and, to our credit, the first to address the issue of same-sex marriage seriously. Each generation has a responsibility to protect and defend these state constitutional and civil rights.

An individual's right to make reproductive health decisions is a civil right. In 2019 the Legislature recognized this right and codified its protection, amending HRS § 378-2 to expressly add reproductive health decisions as a protected basis upon which employment discrimination is prohibited. HRS § 378-2(a)(1), 378-2(a)(9) [am L 2019, c 178 §2] ("Reproductive health decisions" include the use or attempted use of any legal drug, device, or medical service intended

to prevent or terminate a pregnancy, or the use or attempted use of any assisted reproductive technology. HRS § 378-1). Reproductive health decisions are deeply personal choices, and individuals in our state should not fear State complicity in criminal prosecution or civil liability under the state laws of other jurisdictions for exercising this right.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 1, S.D.2.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
and
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1, S.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Belatti, Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board appreciates the intent and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow licensed physician assistants to perform abortions; (2) repeal the requirement that abortions be performed at certain locations; (3) clarify that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to choose to (a) obtain an abortion or (b) if necessary to protect the life or health of the patient to terminate the pregnancy; (4) define "abortion" and "nonviable fetus"; (5) prohibit a covered entity from disclosing information relating to reproductive health care services; (6) prohibit the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state or interstate proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State; (7) prohibit agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance of out-of-state or interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services; (8) prohibit the State from taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services; (9) require the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State or is made under Article IV, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution; (10) enumerate laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application; (11) prohibit the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care services; (12) clarify under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in

receipt or provision of certain services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action; (13) prohibit the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services; and (14) amend the definition of "medical care and services" so that a minor may consent to receive abortion care without any other person's consent.

The Board appreciates the bill's intent to authorize PAs to perform certain abortions to provide greater access to health care for all Hawaii residents, especially those who reside in rural areas or on the neighbor islands. The S.D. 2 also explicitly provides that physician assistants may provide abortion care.

The Board respectfully requests that, physician assistants be limited to provide abortion care only in a hospital licensed by the Department of Health or the federal government, to ensure that appropriate teams are in place to assist if necessary. For the Committee's information, Hawaii Administrative Rules section 16-85-44.5, provides, among other things, that "[s]upervision shall be continuous but shall not be construed as necessarily requiring the physical presence of the supervising physician at the time and place services are rendered." Based on this definition, the Board believes that for purposes of ensuring consumer safety since the supervising physician may not be physically present, that abortion care provided by physician assistants occur in a hospital licensed by Department of Health or the federal government, or at a minimum, clinics or ambulatory surgery centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
and
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1, S.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Belatti, Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board supports sections 10 and 11 and takes no position on other sections of this measure.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow licensed physician assistants to perform certain abortions; (2) repeal the requirement that abortions be performed at certain locations; (3) clarify that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to choose to: 1) obtain an abortion or; 2) if necessary to protect the life or health of the patient terminate the pregnancy; (4) defines "abortion" and "nonviable fetus"; (5) prohibits a covered entity from disclosing information relating to reproductive health care services; (6) prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state or interstate proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State; (7) prohibits agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance or out-of-state or interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services; (8) prohibits the State from taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services (9) requires the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State or is made under Article IV, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution; (10) enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application; (11) prohibits the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care

services; (12) clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of certain services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action; (13) prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services; and (14) amends the definitions of “medical care and services” so that a minor may consent to receive, without any other person’s consent, surgery or any treatment to induce abortion.

The amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 457 under sections 10 and 11 of the bill will provide exceptions for disciplinary action against a licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who is disciplined by another state or convicted where the disciplinary action or conviction is based on the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive system, including but not limited to services relating to pregnancy, contraception, or the termination of a pregnancy so long as the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of such services was in accordance with the laws of this State or would have been in accordance with the laws of this State if it occurred within this State.

This will allow protection of an individual’s right to privacy and personal autonomy over their body within State boundaries, by allowing LPNs, RNs, and APRNs to continue to provide or assist in the receipt or provision of medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive system, without adverse repercussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committees on Health & Homelessness and on
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: March 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 1, S.D. 2
Relating to Health Care

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which among other things would prohibit a covered entity from disclosing information about the provision of reproductive health care services and prohibit government agencies and employees from providing information or assistance in furtherance of a proceeding seeking to impose liability for reproductive health care services. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the bill as a whole, but **requests an amendment to address its concern that the section specifically relating to disclosure of information by government agencies and employees is so broad as to set up a conflict with the open record requirements of chapter 92F, HRS, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA).**

Proposed section __-4, starting on bill page 12, prohibits government agencies as defined in the UIPA and their employees from providing any information “in furtherance of any out-of-state or interstate investigation or proceeding seeking to impose civil or criminal liability” for the provision, use of, or

assistance related to reproductive health care services. Since the definition of “agency” is explicitly based on that used in the UIPA, this provision is clearly intended to apply to UIPA requests. **The problem is that the bill’s prohibition on disclosing information applies not just to patient health information or similarly confidential information but to information in general, and it is not limited to a situation in which the agency or employee furnishing information actually knows that the record request was made in connection with an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability.**

The UIPA allows anonymous requests, and except where an individual is requesting his or her personal records that would not be disclosed to the general public, **an agency cannot require record requesters to identify themselves or explain the purpose of a record request.** And since the proposed prohibition on providing information would apply not just to requests coming from another state government but also to requests from private individuals seeking to impose civil liability under a bounty law, there is no reason to think that record requests made in furtherance of such a proceeding will necessarily be identifiable as such.

Thus, government agencies and employees will risk violating the bill’s prohibition when they disclose public records as required under the UIPA because they will have no way of knowing whether a request is connected to an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability for the use, provision of, or assistance related to reproductive health care services. **And that can be expected to chill the general public’s access to government records by encouraging agencies to deny requests, with the new prohibition as their justification,** for fear that the requested records – no matter how seemingly

innocuous – could conceivably further in some way a proceeding seeking to impose liability related to reproductive health services.

For instance, a request for an agency’s staffing schedule, or a particular worker’s leave requests – public information under the UIPA – potentially could be used to further a prohibited proceeding by showing whether an employee was working her usual schedule at the time the proceeding claims she received or assisted someone in receiving reproductive health services, and agencies might start to deny such requests for fear of violating this new law. Even when the agency doesn’t see an obvious way the requested records would be used in a proceeding, the agency could still fear the information would be used in a way it didn’t predict but that violated the ban, and based on that fear start denying record requests that should have been granted. In such a case, an agency would have a valid argument that because disclosure of the records could violate this new law, the agency was authorized to withhold otherwise public records under the UIPA’s exception to disclosure for records made confidential by law.

To avoid creating a conflict of laws that could chill the general public’s ability to obtain open records under the UIPA, **OIP recommends this Committee amend this measure** to limit the prohibition to situations where an agency **discloses information that is not public under the UIPA** in furtherance of an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability as described in this bill.

Specifically, OIP recommends that proposed subsection __-4(a) on page 12 line 10 to page 13 line 4 be amended to read as follows (added language is bolded):

“(a) No agency, as defined in section 92F-3, or employee, appointee, officer, official, or any other person acting on behalf of an agency shall provide any **nonpublic** information or expend or use time, money,

facilities, property, equipment, personnel, or other resources in furtherance of any out-of-state or interstate investigation or proceeding seeking to impose civil or criminal liability upon a person or entity for:

- (1) The provision, seeking, paying for, receipt of, or inquiring about reproductive health care services that are legal in the State; or
- (2) Assisting any person or entity providing, seeking, receiving, paying for, or responding to an inquiry about reproductive health care services that are legal in the State.”

With this amendment, an agency could no longer argue that the new law required it to withhold staff schedules, leave records, or other public information that could somehow be used in furtherance of a proceeding seeking to impose liability for reproductive health care, because it would be clear that the new law does not bar an agency from disclosing public records.

Thank you for considering OIP’s testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 13, 2023

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 1, SD 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong SUPPORT of SB 1, SD 2, Relating to Health Care. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

SB 1, SD 2 allows certain abortions to be performed by licensed physician assistants while clarifying and solidifying many rights closely held by pregnant persons without furtherance of out-of-state or interstate proceedings relating to reproductive health care services. With our current national conditions, it is imperative that our state continues to protect women's access to health care.

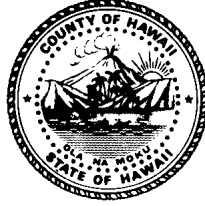
Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1, SD 2. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

RM:mn

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: March 14, 2023

TO: House Committee on Health and Homelessness and
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2

SUBJECT: SB 1 SD 2

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenochi, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SB 1 SD 2 to allow licensed physician assistants to the authority to perform certain abortions so long as those laws are not in conflict with and/or are more stringent than State laws. Our communities suffer when State elected officials supersede the rights of County leaders in regards to the health and well-being of our local constituents. The Counties are more able address the needs of our communities in a timely manner. Hawai'i County, in particular, has a good history of helping to pass public health policies in support of reproductive care such as passing ACT 35.

ACT 35 established that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to chose or obtain an abortion of a nonviable fetus or an abortion to protect a pregnant person's life or health. It is the policy of the State to that the rights of equality, liberty, and privacy are protected under article I section 3, 5, and 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution are fundamental rights and those rights include and individual right to make reproductive health care decisions about one's own body and to decide weather to bear a child or obtain an abortion.

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

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada



**Written Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Health & Homelessness
and
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on S.B. 1, S.D. 2

Chairs Belatti and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama, and Members of the House Committees on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support S.B. 1, S.D. 2, Section 3, Part II, Part III sections 6, 10, and 11, and Part IV as it relates to nursing practice and patient safety.**

In 2021, the Legislature, in its great wisdom, established that Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can improve access to care for people in Hawai'i by authorizing them, via Act 3, SLH 2021, to provide medication and aspiration abortion care. At the time, the House noted "Your Committee finds that residents in rural and medically underserved areas of the State, including on Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, and the west side of the island of Hawaii, may not have access to health care providers who can provide abortion care. . . This measure ensures that people in Hawaii can access abortion care with fewer financial and logistical barriers and stay in their respective communities to get care from trusted providers." (Standing Committee Report Number 910, Re: H.B. 578, H.D.3). The Senate concurred, noting "Many women, particularly those on the neighbor islands and in rural parts of the State, do not have access to physicians who are authorized to perform abortions. Thus, these women are forced to fly to another island in addition to taking time off work, arranging childcare, and booking lodging to see a physician and receive safe and adequate care. Your Committees find that APRNs can safely provide abortion care and can do so outside of hospitals. This measure allows APRNs to perform medication or aspiration abortions." (Standing Committee Report Number 1178, Re: H.B. 578, H.D.3).

This measure codifies statutes to be consistent with the current, evidence-based practice standards. In addition, this measure aims to protect patients' access to care that is established in law in Hawai'i, as well as protect the qualified healthcare providers who offer these healthcare services.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing respectfully asks the Committee to pass **S.B. 1, S.D. 2** through your committee. The Center thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i, and ensuring access to high-quality health care by protecting safe and evidence-based healthcare provided by local healthcare providers including APRNs.

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.



March 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness Chair Belatti and
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawai`ian Affairs Chair Tarnas,
Vice Chairs and Committee Members

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 2:00PM, Room 325

From: Hawai`i Democratic Party Women's Caucus

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1 SD2 Relating to Health Care

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

We often cite that Hawai`i was the first state to decriminalize abortion, but last year the US Supreme Court, in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health*, struck down the 5-decade-old national protection of women's rights to privacy and abortion. While we are proud that women's rights in Hawai`i are protected by Hawai`i's Constitution and laws, many note that we have not been very conscientious in keeping our laws updated.

Patients and medical providers in the United States, who for 50 years relied on federal law for protection, must now look to their state laws for protections won under *Roe v. Wade*. In some states, patients and healthcare workers are facing restrictive or prohibitive laws which make abortion and other reproductive health care impossible to access.

In Hawai`i, as we must look to our laws for protection, we recognize that Hawai`i's laws are in serious need of modernizing. Hawai`i's health care workers and patients need protections from punitive laws of other states; interpreted privacy protections, regardless of age, need codification; and adding physician's assistants to the list of trained medical providers who can provide non-surgical abortion will improve access to services on neighbor islands.

Passage of SB1 SD2 will bring Hawai`i's protections back to where we were prior to the *Dobbs* decision. Please pass it at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,
Amy Monk
Nicole Woo
(Co-Chairs)
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

March 12, 2023

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness Chair Belatti, House Committee on Judiciary and Hawai`ian Affairs Chair Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takeyama, and Committee Members

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 2:00PM, Room 325

From: Patsy T. Mink PAC

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1 SD2 Relating to Health Care

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of SB1 SD2.

This bill is perhaps the most important piece of legislation in support of women's rights and health heard in this legislative session. Hawaii voters recognize it's importance. A recent poll shows that an overwhelming 84% of registered voters consider it important that Hawai`i lawmakers ensure that the current rights all persons have for reproductive healthcare, including abortion, be protected.

Aside from public opinion, there are solid arguments for speedy passage of SB1. I share the points being made by the many supporters of SB1:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protects rights of choice and access to abortion care.
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to help address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under Roe v Wade, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

I urge House committees of HLT and JHA to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Amy Monk,

Chair, Patsy T. Mink PAC



March 14, 2023

House Committees on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
March 15, 2023 | 2 pm | Room 325

RE: Testimony in **Support** of SB1

Aloha e Chairs Belatti and Tarnas and members of the Joint Committee:

We write today in strong support of SB1 and the State Legislature's intention to protect the right of Hawai'i's residents to access full reproductive healthcare. We know that when individuals who can get pregnant have access to care, it yields healthier outcomes for our entire community.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs* put these issues back in the hands of States, so there is no better time than now for the Hawai'i State Legislature to ensure and protect these rights. SB1 takes critical steps to protect our healthcare providers from overreaching jurisdictions and ensures ongoing access for Hawai'i residents to necessary healthcare.

Hawai'i's residents across the political spectrum have long been strong supporters of recognizing the rights of all individuals to receive safe, comprehensive reproductive healthcare, and we are encouraged to see the legislature's appreciation for the complexity of these issues and working to protect the rights of Hawai'i's people.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1.



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

RE: **SB1 SD2 Relating to Reproductive Health Care**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB1 SD2**. This measure, as amended, will provide more clarity and protections for providers and patients alike about the right to access abortions and reproductive health services in Hawai`i.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai`i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai`i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

AlohaCare is committed to improving and advocating for access to care. We fully support this measure because all people in Hawai`i deserve timely, safe, and local access to health care, including abortion care, and providers should be able to do their jobs without fear of criminal or civil penalties from other states or jurisdictions. This measure would help to protect access to care for the residents of Hawai`i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB1 SD2**.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 2:51:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 1 SD 2.

SB1 guarantees the right to access safe and legal abortions which falls under the right to healthcare.

This right applies to all legal abortions performed in the State of Hawaii regardless of the state of origin of the individual seeking an abortion.

By refusing to provide support to out of state parties seeking to restrict the human right of bodily autonomy (through legal actions intended to intimidate, imprison or otherwise punish the individuals seeking abortion) we ensure that these fundamental rights are protected.

In addition, each State has a right to make decisions about what is legal and illegal in their own borders.

Allowing another state to dictate their laws undermines our sovereignty as a state.

Finally, many individuals seeking abortion may be in difficult circumstances. Their life may be at risk, they may have been abused or sexually assaulted. There are too many factors to list why an abortion is a necessary procedure. Further burdening these individuals by stigmatizing or causing severe mental distress as a result of the risk of persecution would not only be immoral, it would be quite cruel.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



HAWAI'I STATE
**COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

March 15, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness:

Chair Della Au Belatti

Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

Rep. Terez Amato

Rep. Greggor Ilagan

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi

Rep. John M. Mizuno

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi

Rep. Diamond Garcia

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Chair David A. Tarnas

Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

Rep. Sonny Ganaden

Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto

Rep. Daniel Holt

Rep. Linda Ichiyama

Rep. Greggor Ilagan

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong

Rep. John M. Mizuno

Rep. Kanani Souza

Re: SB1 SD2 Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) addresses the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We are a statewide partnership of 28 domestic violence programs and shelters.

We respectfully submit testimony **supporting SB1 SD2** because protecting access to abortions also protects a method by which survivors of domestic violence can escape or cut ties from an abusive partner or regain confidence in their autonomy.

Reproductive health can and has been used as a tactic to control or hold power over an intimate partner in a situation involving domestic violence. Pregnancy has been associated with both an increased initiation of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), as well as the increased severity of IPV. In contrast, pregnant people who were experiencing IPV reported a reduction in abuse following an abortion.

This legislation will protect abortion access by:



HAWAI'I STATE
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Clarifying that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- Allowing physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care
- Protecting access to telehealth abortion services
- Reinforcing young people's ability to access abortion care

Providers need to be confident that they can continue to focus on patient health and that Hawai'i will always be a safe place to do what is best for the patient. This bill will also protect abortion providers by:

- Prohibiting medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide care that is legal in the state of Hawai'i
- Eliminating archaic provisions that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care
- Limiting cooperation with other states' investigations and proceedings about the provision of abortion

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

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	Jan Lubin	Bill South	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Keola Akana	Shannon Matson	Michael Vernon	Honolulu
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura		Hawaii 96823
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Stephen O'Harrow		

March 11, 2023

TO: Chairs Au Belatti & Tarnas and members of HLT/JHA Committees

RE: SB 1 SD2 Relating to Health Care

Support for hearing on March 15

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in 1947 by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We strongly support SB 1 as it would deter other states from engaging in action against Hawaii doctors who perform abortions. Since the Hobbs v Jackson decision, states of a certain political persuasion have been doing all they can to restrict abortion. This law gives important protections for abortion providers in our state.

ADA supports protection of reproductive rights for all in Hawaii, including those who seek, provide, or receive abortion services while in our state. This is an essential right, and Hawaii law should protect all who exercise this right in our state, by prohibiting cooperation with the criminalizing of this right in other states. (This reminds us of antebellum fugitive slave laws.)

We believe SB 1 is a good step toward protection, but we believe that reproductive rights should receive protection and guarantees in the State Constitution. Please start the process for a State Constitutional amendment to this effect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.597.6550
www.papaolalokahi.org

House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: SB 1 SD 2 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Bellati and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama, and Members of the Committees on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB 1 SD 2**, which seeks to bolster the State's policy to protect an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy within the state's boundaries, including minors, and to protect our reproductive health care providers from disciplinary action related to the delivery of certain reproductive health services. The State Legislature's intent to thoughtfully respond to the many implications of the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision poses to our communities reflects a meaningful connection with constituents across the state who have historically supported this human right since 1970. Further, Papa Ola Lokahi supports efforts to create an environment where our communities can self-determine their destinies without fear of harm or retaliation, which this bill seeks to uphold.

It remains legal in Hawaii to access abortion services, and we must ensure that our communities and our health care providers are protected in accessing and providing reproductive health services. The Dobbs vs. Jackson decision opens our health care workforce up to attacks from conservative states that have decided to restrict abortion access for their residents and have threatened to enact laws that reach across state lines to penalize health care providers in other states who provide abortion-related care to their residents. Given our existing health care provider shortage, having any providers open to attacks from other states puts our communities at risk of losing more providers. In addition, with our health care workforce already caring for non-resident college students, tourists, and military members, abortion providers are at an increased risk of being targeted for doing their jobs. Further, abortion services encompass many health care providers, including nurses, imaging staff, urgent care providers, family medicine physicians, and pharmacists, who will also be at risk if we do not take action to ensure their safety.

For these reasons, we ask that you pass this measure to protect the privacy of individuals, people's right to make their own health care decisions, to protect abortion access, and our abortion providers. Not passing this measure will have severe consequences for our communities and further restrict access to health care services across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this critical legislation.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 2:33:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of Pride At Work which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. P@W-HI fully supports SB 1 SD 2.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 1:55:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1 AND ALL INDIVIDUAL REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

www.WeAreOne.cc

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:36:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

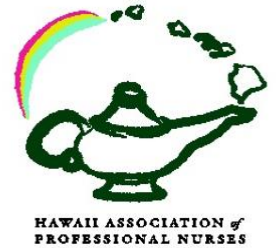
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports SB1. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness; The Honorable Representative David Tarnas, Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)
Subject: SB1 SD2 – Relating to Health Care, in Support

Hearing: March 15, 2023, 2p.m.

Aloha Representative Belatti, Chair; Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair; Representative Tarnas, Chair; Representative Takayama, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB1 SD2. HAPN stands with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa Section and other organizations in support of this bill. HAPN believes that healthcare access in Hawaii is at a point where provider supply is not in line with healthcare demand. As such, HAPN is in **strong Support** of protecting those who seek and provide abortion services from laws from other states that counter the wise policies regarding abortion law in Hawaii.

Our organization has always supported patient access to care in our communities. We also believe that our patients and providers need protection from challenges from other states' law. We believe that legal protection for patients, those who assist, and those who perform important health care services require this protection.

Hawaii has always protected reproductive rights and Governor Ige's Executive Order 22-05 supported the continuation of these protections. In June 2022, the United States Supreme Court changed 50 years of a constitutionally protected right to bodily autonomy. States have enacted damaging laws that significantly impact reproductive health providers, but also impacts those providers who are involved in the care of someone who is pregnant at any point in their journey. At this time, seven other states have enacted similar laws protecting health care providers.

HAPN's mission, to be the voice of APRNs in Hawaii, has been the guiding force that propelled us to spearhead the advancement of patients access to healthcare as well as supporting the recognition of the scope of practice for APRNs in Hawaii which led us to full practice authority. We have worked to improve the physical and mental health of our communities. As our ability to provide close care with our patients progressed, we also opened up our own clinics to provide the care our patients deserve. APRNs have played an important role in the healthcare of our communities and we will continue to be by our patients' side as they make many different healthcare decisions throughout their lives.

HAPN respectfully asks your Committees to pass SB1 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of HAPN with your committee. Thank you for your enduring support of the nursing profession in the Aloha State.

Respectfully,
Dr. Jeremy Creekmore, APRN

HAPN President

Dr. Bradley Kuo, APRN
HAPN Legislative Committee, Chair
HAPN Past President



March 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 325

House Committee on Health & Homelessness

To: Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

To: Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

From: Robert Choy, MPH
Director, Post-Acute Care
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Support for Strengthening Protections for Healthcare Providers
SB 1 SD 2, Relating to Health Care

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** strengthened protections for providers when providing reproductive health services, especially against action brought by other states for services that are legal to perform in Hawaii. We were and continue to be supportive of Governor David Ige's executive order shielding providers from other states' restrictive laws, and appreciate that the legislature is seeking to codify many of the policies enumerated in that order.

We appreciate the comprehensive nature of this measure in ensuring that providers are shielded from punitive policies passed in other states. There have already been documented cases where individual states will attempt to penalize providers for their involvement in reproductive health services, even if the services are legal in the state they are provided. It is not a hypothetical threat, and we are grateful that the state is seeking to shield providers for doing what is best for their patients. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.



TO: Committee on Health & Homelessness
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

And

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference State Capitol
Re: SB1 SD2, Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, & Committee Members,

Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1 SD2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1 SD2, which allows licensed physician assistants (PAs) to perform certain abortions. Repeals the requirement that abortions be performed at certain locations. Clarifies that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to choose to (1) obtain an abortion or (2) if necessary to protect the life or health of the patient terminate the pregnancy. Defines "abortion" and "nonviable fetus". Prohibits a covered entity from disclosing information relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state or interstate proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State. Prohibits agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance of out-of-state or interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the State from taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services. Requires the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State or is made under Article IV, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution. Enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their



application. Prohibits the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care services. Clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of certain services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action. Prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services. Amends the definition of "medical care and services" so that a minor may consent to receive abortion care without any other person's consent.

HAPA is the Hawai'i state chapter of The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA).

HAPA supports SB1 SD2 because it allows licensed PAs to perform certain abortions, which will ensure greater access to abortion health care for all Hawai'i residents, especially those who reside in rural areas, or on the neighbor islands.

PAs are state-licensed, nationally certified medical practitioners, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PA training programs typically require thousands of hours of prior clinical care experience before matriculation is even considered. PAs are highly skilled clinicians who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and perform medical interventions and procedures, as delegated by their collaborating physician or physician group. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty. PAs are authorized by the Affordable Care Act, along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care provider (PCP) for their patients.

As with other medical interventions and procedures, it is within PA scope of practice to provide abortion care, including medical and aspiration abortions, if delegated by their collaborating physician, or group of physicians.

Numerous studies have found no difference in abortion safety when performed by qualified licensed providers such as PAs, rather than a physician. A multiyear study conducted by the University of California San Francisco's Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health evaluated nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and PAs providing early clinic-based abortion care. Over the five-year study, almost 8,000 patients received care from a qualified licensed provider, such as a PA, including at health centers and clinics. The study found comparable rates of safety, effectiveness, and acceptability when compared to care from a physician. In another study evaluating



patient experience after accessing abortion care, patients demonstrated a high level of satisfaction overall when they received their abortion care from a nurse practitioner, a certified nurse midwife, or a PA. There is no scientific evidence that PAs experience more complications when performing first-trimester aspiration abortions than their physician counterparts.

Many health care and professional organizations have confirmed that qualified licensed medical providers, such as PAs, 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. Additionally, in a 2018 review, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that licensed medical providers, including PAs, are equally capable of providing safe and effective abortion care as physicians. It's evident that restricting PAs from providing abortion care confers no medical benefit and instead harms patients by limiting access to care.

In summary, Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1 SD2.

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

Sincerely,

Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: March 10, 2023

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair

Re: Support SB1 SD1 Relating to Health Care

Hrg: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 1:30 PM, Conf Rm 308

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI) is in **Support of SB1 SD2**, which further clarifies and supports an individual's right to bodily autonomy in light of the Supreme Court Decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Furthermore, the measure increases protections for reproductive health care providers and clarifies existing laws. HIPHI strongly supports policies that increase access to health care.

Because of the recent ruling in the *Dobbs*' case, our nation has seen the unraveling of a basic healthcare procedure. All humans have the right to access the healthcare procedures they need, regardless of the reason. This measure provides the means to ensure that everyone has the ability to access a safe and legal abortion in the state of Hawai'i. Hawai'i is taking the necessary steps to ensure that patients and providers are safe, cared for, and have the pathway to support a human right.

HIPHI strongly supports policies that protect a human's right to safe and accessible health care through both individual and provider protections and the ability for all health care professionals trained and licensed in a procedure to practice to the full scope of their licensure.

This measure will help to strengthen health in our state.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peggy Mierzwa'.

Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

March 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Re: SB1, SD2, Relating to Health Care.

Chair Belatti, Chair Tarnas, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB1, SD2, which includes protections for Hawai'i patients, physicians and other clinicians from out-of-state proceedings regarding reproductive health care services legally performed in the State.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB1, SD2.

Kaiser Permanente is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, including more than 269,000 members of Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i. Across the State, over 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to care for our members and serve our communities. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20 medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve in Hawai'i.

Given Hawai'i's tourism industry, our physicians and clinicians regularly deliver care to individuals who are not full-time Hawai'i residents. Thus, it is concerning when mainland states make legislative decisions or take enforcement actions that could detrimentally impact the legal health care services we provide to our patients in Hawai'i.

We support the Legislature's intent to protect Hawai'i patients and providers. It is imperative to appropriately shield patients who lawfully receive health care services in the State of Hawai'i,

regardless of the patients' residence status. These protections should extend to the licensed physicians and clinicians who serve such patients.

At a time when Hawai'i's physician shortage continues to intensify, such protections help mitigate health care provider turnover. Most importantly, shielding our health care workforce from unwarranted external threats protects the availability of legal health care services for patients in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



March 15, 2023

To: Chair Belatti, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Houses Committees on Health & Homeless and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: March 15, 2023; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325/Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of SB 1 SD 2 – Relating to Health

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1. HAHP is a statewide partnership of Hawaii's health plans and affiliated organizations to improve the health of Hawaii's communities together. The vast majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a health plan associated with one of our organizations.

HAHP encourages continued access to quality, medically necessary health care that promotes optimal health outcomes for each of our members and our community at-large. This includes access that is upheld by current state law for legal abortions and to support a patient's right to choose. HAHP supports the legislature's intent to provide protections for reproductive health care providers and patients.

Thank you for allowing us to provide testimony in support of SB 1 SD2.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

AlohaCare | HMAA | HMSA | Humana | HWMG | Kaiser Permanente | MDX Hawaii | Ohana Health Plan | UHA Health Insurance | UnitedHealthcare

hahp.org | 818 Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 | info@hahp.org



March 15, 2023

To: Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair,
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair,
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

RE: SB 1 SD2 Relating to Health Care

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Bellati, Chair Tarnas, and members of the committees, the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong support of SB 1 SD2 Relating to Health Care which authorizes licensed physician assistants to perform certain abortions and protects health care providers from certain civil and criminal actions from another state.

This bill is about ensuring access to reproductive care, including abortion care for the women of Hawai'i; care that is essential to women's health and care that they are absolutely entitled to. This measure also recognizes that healthcare decisions are made between the provider and patient without government interference. Protecting providers of such care and expanding care to physician assistants are important to keeping all reproductive care accessible in Hawai'i.

This measure is not only a priority of the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus; it is also a priority of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls.

We respectfully request that the Committees pass this measure. We thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in strong support of SB 1 SD2.



Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Cade Watanabe, Senior Vice-President

March 14, 2023

Committee on Health & Homelessness
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Testimony in support of SB 1

Chairs Belatti and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and health care industries. **We support SB 1.** UNITE HERE Local 5 believes all people should have quality health care and the right to control their own bodies. The recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade is an attack on working people and the first in a likely series of decisions intended to bolster the power of the few to the detriment of the many. For Local 5, access to abortion is about workers having control over our personal and economic futures. And it matters to all of us as workers and union members because when they attack one of us, they attack all of us. We make this statement with a deep respect for persons of all faiths and a deep respect for the blessing of life.

For Local 5, reproductive freedom is one of many rights inherent to the dignity of the working class that also includes quality healthcare, access to a good education, a voice on the job, living wages, affordable and safe homes, and time off to enjoy our lives. We know the only way we can win these things is if we stand up for one another and remain united.

Thank you for your consideration.



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 1015

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone 808.548.0270

E-mail huikauka@gmail.com

2022-2023 Advocacy Committee

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President

Martina Kamaka, MD
Vice-President

Mahealani Lum, DO
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March 13, 2023

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Group Testimony in Support of SB1 SD 2
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We support SB 1 SD2 in general. We also agree with ACOG's suggestions to insert the provider protection language from SB 896 into SB1, but amend the bill to take out physician assistants as we prefer such an extension of privileges be legislated in a separate bill.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:28:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Marsh	UpCountry Doctor	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please take a stand for women"s rights to decide about their pregnancies.

vote yes on this bill

mahalo nui'

dr. bonnie marsh

haiku town, maui



SB 1, SD2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

MARCH 15, 2023 · HOUSE HEALTH AND JUDICIARY
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES · CHAIRS
REP. DELLA AU BELATTI AND REP. DAVID A.
TARNAS

POSITION: Strong support.

BILL DESCRIPTION: PART I - Allows licensed physician assistants to perform abortions. Repeals the requirement that abortions, including aspiration abortions performed by advance practice registered nurses, be performed at certain locations. Clarifies that a patient has the right to choose to obtain an abortion, or to terminate a pregnancy if the termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the patient, and the State shall not deny or interfere with the se rights. Defines "abortion" and "nonviable fetus". Part II - Prohibits a covered entity from disclosing communication or information relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State. Prohibits agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance of interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the State from penalizing, prosecuting, or otherwise taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services. Requires the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State. Enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application as rules of decision in the courts. Prohibits the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care services. Part III

- Clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, counseling, or referral services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action. Part IV - Prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order...(See document for complete description)

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **strongly supports** SB 1, SD2, relating to health care. Reproductive care is an essential form of healthcare. In March of 1970, Hawai'i became the first state to legalize abortion, three years before the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision by the United States Supreme Court protected access to abortion nationwide. In so doing, the state recognized that preserving access to safe and legal reproductive care is a vital public health objective for the islands. Yet, Hawai'i's unique geography and high cost of living present barriers to obtaining reproductive care for potential patients. As of 2022, only three abortion providers exist in the islands and only Oahu and Maui host reproductive care clinics. According to Planned Parenthood, the number of abortion providers in the state has been on the decline since the 1990s.

Moreover, studies show that access to abortion care is linked to financial well-being. According to The Turnaway Study conducted by Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at the University of California San Francisco, people who were denied access to an abortion experienced an increase in household poverty lasting at least four years relative to those who received an abortion. Women who lacked access to reproductive care were also found to be less able to pay for basic living expenses, had lower credit scores, and had higher rates of debt and eviction than those with access to abortion care.

The U.S. Supreme Court's disastrous ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended the federal constitutional right to abortion care. In overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court erased nearly fifty years of legal precedent supporting the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, leading to a wave of abortion restrictions enacted by state legislatures across the country. The Court's decision disproportionately harms black, latino, indigenous, and other people of color, for whom access to healthcare and economic opportunities has historically been impeded by systemic racism.

In response to the Supreme Court's catastrophic ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, state policymakers must take action to uphold Hawai'i's legacy as a leader in advancing reproductive care and enact policies to strengthen reproductive rights in the islands. Accordingly, and for the sake of the sex trafficking survivors whom we have helped to obtain vital reproductive care, we support this bill's enactment of a comprehensive legal framework to reinforce and expand our state's continuum of reproductive care for those in need.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



March 14, 2023

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: S.B. 1, S.D. 2, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Chair Tarnas, and the Members of the Committees on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony **in strong support of S.B. 1, S.D. 2**, Relating to Healthcare, which proposes to update Hawaii's abortion statutes, provide additional protection for medical providers who perform abortions, and strengthen and protect inclusive access to abortion and sexual and reproductive health care for all persons.

When the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, it upended nearly fifty years of reproductive rights. What we once believed to be settled law was erased with the stroke of a pen. Pregnant persons all around the country suddenly found themselves stripped of the most basic of rights – the right to choose if, when, and how, to have children, the right to seek basic healthcare, and the right to control their own futures.

And as state after state has "gone dark", it is not only pregnant persons who have suffered in the wake of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Providers are facing harassment and threats for providing basic healthcare, and confusion and misinformation over the state of the law is worsening an already dire situation.

For these reasons, we strongly believe that it is more important than ever for our State to take a stand to ensure that access to abortion is as expansive as possible and to protect Hawaii's healthcare providers.

S.D. 2 will ensure that our current rights to reproductive health care, including abortion care, are protected. We see S.D. 2 as an incredible opportunity to be an example to the rest of the country in upholding *Roe* era access and expanding protections for our medical providers.

Hawaii Women Lawyers is honored and grateful to have had the opportunity, alongside so many inspiring community activists, to work closely with the Senate on this bill and we are excited to continue our efforts with the House of Representatives.

For these reasons, we join the many other community voices in submitting our strong support for S.B.1, S.D. 2 and respectfully ask that the Committees pass this measure.



Date: March 14, 2023

To: Hawaii State House Committees on Health and Homelessness and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
From: American Association of University Women of Hawaii
Hearing Date/Time/Room: Wed., March 15, 2:00 pm, Room 325
RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1, S.D. 2, Relating to Health Care

Dear Chairs Belatti and Tarnas and members of the Committees,

The American Association of University Women of Hawaii (AAUW-HI) writes in strong support of S.B. 1, S.D. 2. AAUW trusts that everyone can make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own moral and religious beliefs. Further, we believe that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.

Access to family planning and a full range of reproductive health services enhances an individual's reproductive choices—which leads to improvements in women's health care and economic security. The ability to control when to start a family has been linked to significant increases in women's wages and increased likelihood of educational attainment.

It is imperative that Hawaii formalize protection to access to abortion services as states across the country seek to criminalize abortion and those who provide care. Protecting access to abortion necessitates protecting our current healthcare and abortion care workforce as well as protecting every individual's right to safe and legal reproductive health care.

Thank you for your support for this important bill.

Sincerely,
Laurie Temple
AAUW of Hawaii Public Policy Committee Member

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaula'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community.



Committees: Joint House Committee on Health and Homelessness
and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 P.M.

Place: Via videoconference
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 1 S.D. 2
Relating to Health Care

Dear Chairs Bellati and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama and members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in strong support **S.B. 1 S.D. 2**, which maintains and reinforces the constitutional right to an abortion within the State of Hawai'i.

Our state has a long track record of protecting reproductive freedom as a fundamental right guaranteed under article 1, sections 3, 5, and 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution. We celebrate this adherence to an expansive view of the right to equality, liberty, and privacy, and this bill, when enacted by this body and signed by the Governor, is a welcome addition that will further enshrine these rights for the benefit of all people within our state.

This legislation is needed because the right to, and essential protections for, bodily autonomy are in peril throughout much of the United States at this time. In the wake of the disastrous U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, individuals in many states are now subject to unconscionable civil actions and criminal prosecutions related to the provision of, and access to, reproductive healthcare.

This legislation will go a long way in continuing to protect access to reproductive health care in Hawai'i. It does so by 1) clarifying that all pregnant people in Hawai'i have an affirmative, protected right to seek reproductive health care; 2) allows licensed physician assistants to provide abortion health care; 3) protects access to telehealth reproductive health care, which is critically important to those living in remote communities, especially on some of the neighbor islands; and 4) reinforces the ability of young people to access reproductive health care. The legislation also provides important protections shielding people's reproductive health

care decisions and the provision of abortion care in Hawai'i from intrusive efforts by anti-choice activists and officials to interfere with such basic, essential health care. Decisions made in Hawai'i by people exercising their right to personal bodily autonomy are protected by the constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, not subject to the whim of the Attorney General of the State of Texas.

At the national level, the ACLU is committed to fighting for the right to abortion access. The example set by the Hawai'i State Legislature with the passage of SB1, SD2 is one that other states should follow, as it preserves a path forward in this fight - a path that provides hope, safety, and dignity not just for those who live in Hawai'i, but also those who come to the state in search of reproductive healthcare that they might be barred from accessing in their home state or across the Pacific region.

The legal landscape throughout much of the country is changing in a harmful and tumultuous way; as a result, many of our fundamental rights, dearly held and relied upon for generations, are being called into question. We appreciate the legislature's firm stance in support of reproductive freedom and we request that the Joint Committee continue to support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Taylor Brack

Taylor Brack

Staff Attorney

ACLU of Hawai'i

tbrack@acluhawaii.org

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.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
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Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Date: March 15, 2023

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Bernard Robinson, MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: SB1 SD2 Relating to Healthcare - Abortion; Physician Assistants; Consent by Minors; Reproductive Health Care Services; Disclosures; Subpoenas; Agencies; Licensing Authorities; Disciplinary Action; Investigations; Proceedings

Position: Support

This measure will (1) Allows licensed physician assistants to perform abortions; (2) Prohibits the State from penalizing, prosecuting, or otherwise taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services; (3) Clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, counseling, or referral services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action; (4) Prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services; (5) Amends the definition of "medical care and services" that a minor may consent to receive without any other person's consent to include surgery and any treatment to induce abortion.

HMA appreciates the recent amendments to SB 1, with the insertion of language from SB 896 SD1 relating to the provision of reproductive healthcare services. HMA strongly supports this measure that reiterates state policy, protecting physicians who meet their ethical duties to patient's health and well-being while following clinical guidelines and complying with state regulations.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to provide comments on this measure.

2023 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Angela M. Pratt, MD, President • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President Elect • Michael Champion, MD, Immediate Past President
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2023 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, Chair • Beth England, MD, Co-Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

References and Quick Links:

Preserving Access to Reproductive Health Services. [American Medical Association 2022](#).

Brubaker L, Bibbins-Domingo K. Health Care Access and Reproductive Rights. JAMA. 2022;328(17):1707–1709. doi:[10.1001/jama.2022.19172](#)

Crear-Perry J, Hassan A, Daniel S. Advancing Birth Equity in a Post-Dobbs US. [JAMA. 2022;328\(17\):1689–1690](#). doi:[10.1001/jama.2022.19468](#)

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ACOG

The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00pm

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Legislative Chair and Immediate Past Chair
Angel Willey, MD, FACOG, Chair

Re: SB 1_SD2 Relating to Health Care
Position: STRONG SUPPORT

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) **strongly supports SB 1_SD2** which aims protect access to abortion in Hawai'i by protecting Hawaii's healthcare providers from legal actions imposed by states with restrictive abortion laws, and strengthens our existing but outdated statutes regarding reproductive healthcare.

1. **Hawai'i has a long history of recognizing the importance of access to abortion care, and protecting this access is widely supported.** Hawai'i has a proud history of leading the country in protecting reproductive rights, being one of the first states to legalize abortion. Access to abortion has always been widely supported in Hawai'i,¹ with the most recent statewide survey conducted by Ward Research in February 2023 showing that 84% of Hawai'i residents believing it is important for lawmakers to ensure that current reproductive rights, including the right to abortion are protected. SB 1 would codify Governor David Ige's Executive Order 22-05, which he issued in October 2022² after a joint letter by fourteen organizations representing physicians, nurses and other allied healthcare organizations was sent urging his administration to protect healthcare professionals from out-of-state investigations seeking to impose civil or criminal liability related to the provision of abortion care that is legal in Hawai'i.
2. **Protecting access to abortion care means protecting our healthcare workforce from out of state attacks that are being threatened across the country.** While Hawai'i has been a long-time leader in reproductive health care rights, the landscape in the rest of the country is rapidly changing. Since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision by the United States Supreme Court in June 2022 that overturned almost fifty years of a constitutional right to abortion and bodily autonomy, several states including Idaho, Oklahoma, and Texas³ have enacted abortion restrictions that are enforced through private,

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/state/hawaii/views-about-abortion/>

² <https://apnews.com/article/abortion-business-hawaii-david-ige-e6921a42ff56be2d41d377e814565858>

³ <https://reproductiverights.org/wirf-abortion-bans/texas-sb8-copycat-ban-in-effect/>

civil lawsuits. In addition, lawmakers in conservative states have threatened to pass laws that would reach across state lines and seek to penalize healthcare providers in other states who provided abortion-related care to their residents.⁴ All of these laws aim to restrict the residents of those states from not only accessing basic healthcare in their own state, but from also traveling out-of-state for abortion care.

3. **Abortion related health care is not just provision of abortion, and any healthcare provider caring for a patient who ultimately obtains an abortion can be targeted.** Each person's story is unique. Each person may take a different route on their journey to get abortion care, and the healthcare they access during that process can involve more than just their abortion provider. The urgent care physician who notifies them that they are pregnant when they were feeling ill, the radiologist who does their ultrasound, as well as the healthcare provider who performs the abortion, are all vulnerable to out-of-state threats. Especially given that the pool of abortion providers in the state is small, a threat to our healthcare providers is also a threat to abortion access for all of us in Hawai'i.
4. **Hawai'i healthcare professionals already provide care to many patients from other states.** Caring for patients from other states is nothing new as we have college student from other states, tourists, and military personnel, and we have always taken care of all patients in front of us no matter where they are from. Healthcare providers should not have to worry about litigation for providing compassionate care that is legal in Hawai'i.
5. **Seven other states have enacted similar laws protecting health care providers.**⁵
6. **Our current statutes around reproductive healthcare are outdated and do not reflect current evidence-based practice.** Our current statutes include specifying a location for performing an abortion which does not account for the current practice in which over half of all abortions now are done via medications which can be taken by a pregnant person anywhere, and many medication abortions are done safely via telemedicine. Our current statutes are not gender inclusive, and many of us have taken care of pregnant transgender men and pregnant nonbinary people.
7. **Physician assistants can safely perform abortion procedures.** PAs can perform abortions in 13 other states.⁶ A pilot program in California demonstrated that patients who have procedural abortions performed by PAs and other advance practice clinicians experience the same extremely low rate of complications as patients who have procedural abortions performed by physicians.⁷ Allowing PAs to perform abortions would help alleviate the access to abortion issues we experience in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, Hawai'i ACOG asks the legislature to be proactive and protect abortion access in Hawai'i by protecting our healthcare providers and strengthening our current statutes.

We urge you to pass SB 1.

⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/03/08/missouri-abortion-ban-texas-supreme-court/>

⁵ <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/>

⁶ <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/state-actions-to-protect-and-expand-access-to-abortion-services/>

⁷ 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.



Democratic Party of Hawai'i Supports SB No.1 SD 2 Relating to Health Care

Testimony of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Legislative Committee, Democratic Party of Hawaii

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members House Committee on Health & Homelessness

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chairs
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports S.B. No. 1 SD2, to bolster guarantees of protection of a pregnant person's right to privacy and bodily autonomy, to strengthen in our laws the right of pregnant person to terminate a pregnancy in the aftermath of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S.Ct. 2228 (No. 19-1392, June 24, 2022), to insulate our health care professionals from demands that might be placed upon them by other jurisdictions, and to open up the authority to perform abortion procedures by physician's assistants.

We broadly support measures that are designed to clarify, expand, and protect a woman's freedom of choice, in furtherance of upholding within the State of Hawai'i a constitutional right to abortion.

We therefore encourage all elected officials of the State of Hawai'i who subscribe to Democratic values to vote for and/or to support SB No. 1, SD 2.



March 15, 2023

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SB1 SD2 – Relating to health care.

Dear Chair Belatti, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members
of the Committees:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to support SB1 SD2, which allows licensed physician assistants to perform certain abortions, clarifies that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to choose, prohibits a covered entity from disclosing information related to reproductive health care services, prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State, prohibits the enforcement of a judgement or order arising from a foreign/other penal code/law with respect to reproductive health care services, and enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application.

HMSA supports this bill and believes in improving access to quality health care services and the importance of allowing Hawaii's physician assistants and other health care practitioners to confidently practice within the scope of their license. We support the right to reproductive choice as codified in current state statute and appreciate the legislature's intent to protect Hawaii's residents, those seeking care, and health care providers from the inconsistency of reproductive rights' laws across the nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1 SD2.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations



HMIHC

HAWAII MATERNAL & INFANT
HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative (HMIHC)

RE: SB 1 SD 2 – Relating to Health Care
POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Belatti and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama, and Members of the Committees on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1 SD 2**.

Senate Bill 1 HD 2, which aims to protect abortion care in Hawai‘i by protecting Hawai‘i’s healthcare providers from legal actions imposed by conservative states, resonates strongly with the Hawai‘i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative. We urge you to pass this bill to protect the health and privacy of our communities and healthcare workforce across the state.

Hawai‘i has been a champion of abortion care access since 1970, legalizing this essential health care service before the passing of Roe v. Wade in 1973. Protecting access to abortion care is widely supported across the state, with [84% of residents](#) believing that lawmakers must ensure that current reproductive rights, including the right to abortion, are protected. This bill would codify Governor David Ige’s [Executive Order 22-05](#), which he issued in October 2022 after a joint letter by fourteen organizations representing physicians, nurses, and other allied healthcare organizations was sent urging his administration to protect healthcare professionals from restrictive states who have threatened to enact laws that would reach across state lines to penalize healthcare providers that provide abortion services to their residents. Abortion services encompass many healthcare providers, including but not limited to nurses, imaging staff, pharmacists, urgent care providers, family medicine physicians, and more, who will also be at risk if we do not take action to ensure their safety.

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative urge your committee to be proactive in protecting abortion access in Hawai‘i, strengthening our existing statutes, and remaining steadfast in affirming our communities' right to self-determine their reproductive health choices without fear of harm or retaliation.

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 focus on health in the first year of life and want children to have the best start. A parent’s health strongly impacts the health and well-being of their children and family, and the ability to self-determine when, where, and how to have more children or parent existing children plays a role.

The Collaborative was developed with the Executive Office of Early Learning’s Action Strategy with help from the Department of Health and the 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 is Team 1 of the Action Strategy and helps advance their goals 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 an 8% reduction in preterm births and a 4% reduction in infant mortality. Over 150 people across Hawai‘i have been involved in the Collaborative. These members include physicians, 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 workgroups.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this critical legislation.



Alliance Advocates - Hawai'i

To: Hawai'i State House Committees on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 at 2:00 pm
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates in strong support of SB 1

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") strongly supports SB 1, a bill that takes critical steps toward protecting abortion providers and patients and expands the pool of available providers by allowing physician assistants to provide abortion care. Fundamentally, providers and patients should not fear being investigated, jailed, or losing their license for providing or obtaining legal health care services.

In recent weeks, we have seen nationwide attacks on abortion access - a group of anti-abortion activists sued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in federal court over the FDA's approval of mifepristone, threatening access to medication abortion across the country. It is clear that anti-abortion activists and politicians are not stopping at banning abortion at the state level - they are coming after Hawai'i patients and providers too.

SB 1 Takes Critical Steps Toward Protecting Abortion Providers and Patients

SB 1 bolsters protections for providers and patients because the bill limits cooperation with other states' investigations and proceedings about the provision of abortion; eliminates statutory gaps in the physician (§453-16) and nursing (§457-8.7) abortion code; and prohibits medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide abortion that is legal in the state of Hawai'i.

Because the Supreme Court erased decades of precedent last summer by taking away our federal constitutional right to abortion, one in three women of reproductive age in the U.S. – and more trans and nonbinary people – no longer have access to abortion in their state. Along with the loss of access to essential health care, providers and patients alike are living in fear of being criminally prosecuted. The law is crystal clear that abortion care provided in Hawai'i remains legal, and the Department of Justice reiterated that the Constitution restricts states' authority to ban reproductive services provided outside their borders. Nonetheless, overzealous prosecutors and lawmakers in hostile states are pursuing laws that target providers and discipline outside of states' borders.

Lawmakers should also ensure Hawai'i health care providers do not have their licenses negatively impacted or face discipline locally due to the provision of reproductive health care, even if providers are subject to discipline, investigations, or criminal charges in other states. As an example, shortly after the reversal of *Roe*, Indiana Attorney General targeted abortion provider Dr. Caitlin Bernard for providing an abortion to a 10-year-old rape survivor. Although the state of Indiana found Dr. Bernard was acting in accordance with Indiana law, her story highlights the very real possibility of providers being punished or disciplined for providing legal abortion care. Providers in these states are being forced to violate their ethical duties and medical judgment out of fear of prosecution, jail time, and loss of licensure. This bill

ensures that should Dr. Bernard have been prosecuted or otherwise disciplined in Indiana, she could continue to practice medicine in Hawai‘i.

Additionally, with few remaining federal protections for abortion care, **Hawai‘i cannot afford to have statutory gaps in state laws that put access to abortion at risk.** SB 1 includes language that clarifies that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people; eliminates archaic provisions that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care; provides definitional consistency across state abortion codes; and protects access to telehealth abortion services. These clarifications go a long way in supporting our providers and patients by ensuring our statutes are as strong as possible.

All people in our state need to be confident that Hawai‘i law protects their right to access abortion services, and providers should not be afraid to be jailed, lose their license, or be barred from ever practicing medicine again simply for providing basic, legal health care. Providers need to be confident that they can continue to focus on patient health and that Hawai‘i will always be a safe place to do what is best for the person they are serving.

Physician Assistants Can Safely and Effectively Provide Abortion Care

PPAA supports inclusion of a provision in SB 1 that allows physician assistants to provide abortion care. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Numerous studies have found no difference in abortion safety when performed by qualified licensed providers – such as physician assistants – rather than a physician. 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. Qualified licensed provider care is also welcomed by patients: in a study evaluating patient experience after accessing abortion care, patients 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.

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. 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. Experts agree: restricting qualified providers from providing abortion care confers no medical benefit and instead harms patients by limiting access to care.

Given that many people in Hawai‘i routinely receive care from qualified licensed providers, SB 1 could 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 PAs to provide abortion care would help people receive highly personal care from a provider they know and trust.

All people in Hawai‘i deserve timely, safe, and local access to abortion care, and providers deserve to do their jobs without fearing they will get sent to jail or lose their career. A pregnant person’s freedom to plan their family is a near unanimously held belief among Hawaii voters – **85 percent of Hawaii voters believe it is important that women have access to all of the reproductive health care options available, including abortion.** We look forward to continuing to work with you to remove legal barriers to abortion care 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 strong support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jen Wilbur
Hawai‘i State Director
Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai‘i

TESTIMONY to the HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, and
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
SB1 SD2 Relating to Healthcare

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

Honorable Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members
Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Committee Members

While I respectfully acknowledge Hawaii's law for women to access and obtain an abortion, I strongly oppose SB1 for the following reasons:

1. The Hawaii Federation and National Federation of Republican Women affirm and support the right to life through all stages:

The first stage is conception. In numerous peer-reviewed scientifically researched studies, it has been established that **life begins at conception**. In the textbook, "The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology." 7th edition, "A zygote (fertilized egg) is the beginning of a new human being... This highly specialized, totipotent cell marks the beginning of each of us as a **unique human being**."

2. Minor's access to abortion without parental consent is very concerning. The authors of this bill and Legislators who support this bill should **place an emphasis on education** rather than allowing minors to consent without parents. There are physical and emotional long-term impacts of abortions. I recommend an amendment to allocate resources to support a curriculum that includes contraception options as well as the physiological and emotional impact of an abortion procedure.
3. Impact on our community. In May 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) dropped a report that revealed the US birth rate fell by 4%, the sharpest single-year decline in nearly 50 years and the lowest number of births since 1979. When birth rates dip below what is known as the "replacement" fertility rate of 2.1", the optimal rate maintain population stability, there is a concern about future lack of healthy, young workers needed to maintain economic productivity. At the current rate of declining birth rates coupled with local families moving to the mainland, we could lose electoral votes and congressional seats.
4. Spiritual foundation. In Genesis 1:26-27, Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Furthermore, in Psalm 139:13, For you (God) created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Please vote NO. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sources:

Moore, Keith L. *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* (7th edition, Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2003)

Moore, Keith L. *Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology* (7th edition, Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2008, p. 2)

Sadler, T.W., Langman. *Medical Embryology* (10th edition, Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006, p. 11)

The Bible



Submitted Online: March 14, 2023

HEARING: Wednesday, March 15, 2023

TO: House Committee on Health House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Opposition to SB1 SD2 Relating to Health Care

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. Our organization strongly opposes the amendment because it harms women who may not have access to a medical doctor to perform an abortion.

The intent to make abortions more accessible by using health practitioners other than medical doctors creates undue health risks for women, particularly those in underserved rural communities in Hawai'i.

Regulations on access to abortions are essential to protect the health and life of women who do choose to have an abortion. This amendment strips away the essential protections for women allowing health practitioners who do not have the same extensive training as medical doctors to perform abortions will undermine the safety of women in our state.

This bill may benefit traffickers, putting women at risk. Because Hawaii would refuse to engage with other states' abortion laws, SB 1 SD2 would prevent Hawaii from helping to identify and bring to justice traffickers who may force girls to undergo abortions. A young girl who is a victim of trafficking or sexual abuse would have no recourse against her abuser who takes her in for an abortion, or against the abortionist if she is harmed in the process.

Finally, it is uncertain what types of complications result from abortions, including death, because no data is available. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that "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, but there is no national requirement for data submission or reporting."ⁱ

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition.

ⁱ https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats/abortion.htm [accessed 01/31/23]

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2023
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 1

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and members of the COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair, and members of the COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha,

My name is Doris Segal Matsunaga and I am testifying in strong support of SB 1, SD 2.

After 40 years of working at three O'ahu community health centers as a public health educator and administrator, I retired to Waimea on Hawaii Island to live near grandchildren and extended family.

From this career, I know that health providers in Hawaii have long labored quietly, mostly under the radar to help women access abortion services, and that policy makers such as yourselves have preferred to quietly support medical privacy and reproductive freedom vs engaging in public advocacy for abortion. While Hawaii was a trailblazer on this issue and the first state to legalize abortion, we also have a strong community tradition of valuing multicultural and religious diversity and building a tolerant pluralistic democracy without inflaming community divisions. However, given events at the national level, this approach is no longer possible. SB 1, SD2 is essential to strengthen our laws and protect residents, families and providers.

As policymakers, it is time once again to show the courage of Hawaii's early heroines and heroes, take a stand for reproductive freedom and medical privacy, and pass this bill.

However, I wish to challenge the Legislature to go further... if not this year, then next. While SB1, SD 2 takes important steps to protect and expand abortion access, more remains to be done. Access to abortion services has always been a challenge for low income women, even on O'ahu. And as with all medical care, abortion services are even less available to those living on Neighbor Islands and in rural areas.

The day we moved to Waimea, the cost of our health insurance doubled. Routine and specialty services required trips to Honolulu, resulting in care delays. We all have friends and family who required emergency transport via air ambulance. In the case of abortion services, every day of delay is critical, adding complexity and cost, or making such services impossible.

To improve access on the Neighbor Islands and in other underserved areas, I urge legislators actively consult with Hawaii's abortion services providers, and the FQHC's (Federally Qualified Community Health Centers) referring patients to them, regarding barriers and facilitators of such care.

Please approve SB1, SD2. Mahalo for your attention to this important issue.

FOR: SB1 Relating to Health Care
DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
COMMITTEE: Committees on Health and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
ROOM: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne W.M. Lau

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committees:

I offer my **STRONG SUPPORT for SB1** Relating to Health Care which would continue Hawai'i's long standing leadership in protecting a woman's right to choose. The majority of Hawai'i's residents continue to support the protections that were provided under *Roe v. Wade*, and I ask that you pass this legislation to continue those protections despite the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe*.

SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protects rights of choice and access to abortion care.

SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to help address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.

SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.

It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 4:59:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Robinson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I Support SB1 because:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to help address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:20:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gray Nauwelaerts	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kāua.

‘O Gray ko‘u inoa.

No kaimukī mai au.

And I use they/them pronouns.

I’m here to tell you my story.

I grew up with a bright pink Planned Parenthood magnet on the fridge. I didn’t know what Planned Parenthood was and all I knew was what people were saying at my elementary school. They weren’t saying positive things about the organization and often said people who go to Planned Parenthood also go to hell, strong for fourth graders I know. One night, my mom and I sat down at the table and I asked her about the magnet, since this was a hot topic at school. She told me all about Planned Parenthood and the things they do to help us, like offering STI testing, birth control, and abortion. She assured me that when I got older, I would be very appreciative of Planned Parenthood.

Years later, someone from Planned Parenthood came to my school and taught my ninth grade class about gender and sexuality. As the trans kid who was outed by a teacher and sat in the far back corner of the classroom, I felt seen for the very first time. I felt that, as a transgender person, I was trans enough. That I could keep my uterus and my breasts and that there were other people like me.

After the lesson, I was presented with an opportunity: volunteer peer education work with Planned Parenthood. Through this work, I could learn things about my body that my school doesn’t teach. I knew I wanted to do it because my school doesn’t teach sex education and I never watched the puberty video we were supposed to watch in fifth grade. I knew nothing about my body.

I learned so much about abortion and LGBTQ+ health through my work with Planned Parenthood and I hadn’t realized how important these issues really are. One of the first meetings I attended as a volunteer was right after Roe was overturned and I had just finished reading Brave New World. I was angry. I used to think 1984 got more right about our world, but the connections to Brave New World are getting stronger and stronger.

But I am very happy that Hawai'i has kept our law allowing abortion but it (the statute) needs to be updated with a stronger framework that protects abortion providers and patients.

As the local and national anti-abortion movement is trying to get rid of state laws allowing abortion, Hawai'i must remain a safe place for accessible health care for all. This means for all bodies: gender expansive bodies, gender non-conforming bodies, cisgender bodies- all bodies.

SB-1 SD-2 has been updated so that it uses inclusive language and I greatly appreciate this because I have a uterus. I am not a woman. This law applies to my body and acknowledges it but does not acknowledge my identity. There are many others that feel the same way. Hawai'i has a long history of LGBTQ+ kānaka, or māhū. There are many transgender people in Hawai'i like me who aren't acknowledged by the language used in our laws. Language about certain issues often exclude transgender people. Language about periods that only say "woman" exclude transgender people who menstruate is another example. I menstruate. I am not a woman.

Laws should acknowledge the whole person and who the body belongs to. I may not love my body but I'm learning to respect it and laws should respect our bodies too. I'm here to ask you to give support to SB-1 SD-2, a bill that strengthens our abortion law by using inclusive language and protecting abortion seekers and providers.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Support for S.B. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Dear Chairs and Committee members, I write to you today **in strong support of S.B. 1.**

My name is Olivia Cornejo and I am a woman living in Hawai‘i who believes that all people should have the freedom and power to make decisions about their health care, body, and life.

When Roe v. Wade was overturned last year, I remember feeling such deep sadness and horror as bodily autonomy and access to reproductive health care was stripped away from so many. In an instant, people across the nation lost their ability to make the deeply personal decision of whether, and when, to have children.

While I took comfort in the fact that that life-altering choice was protected for me under Hawai‘i’s laws, I knew that wasn’t the case for many others. Even now, under our current state laws, abortion access is not guaranteed for those who are transgender or nonbinary, nor does it protect those who may come to Hawai‘i in search of life-saving care from states that may persecute them, and our providers. Given these dire and unprecedented times, I believe it is vital that our laws are strengthened to ensure all people in Hawai‘i have the right to abortion care and that our providers, as well as patients, are protected from criminal prosecution.

Hawai‘i’s history as the **first state to decriminalize abortion** is something to be extremely proud of, and I strongly urge the committee to **pass S.B. 1** so we can continue to set the standard for progressive legislation by safeguarding and expanding abortion access for all.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Olivia Cornejo

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:57:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Chen	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am a Complex Family Planning Fellow of the University of Hawai'i's Department of OBGYN. I completed my OBGYN residency in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and am currently undergoing a two-year fellowship at the University of Hawai'i to become a subspecialist in complex contraception and abortion care. When I was applying for fellowship, the University of Hawai'i was my number-one choice because of the state's legacy of protecting abortion access, which was personified in its providers and the passion and dedication I saw from them on a national stage.

Because of the university's reputation in the field of complex family planning, based on Hawai'i's legacy, the University of Hawai'i draws top applicants for both medical school and residency. Training and education in this area has historically been difficult to access, and is expected to become even more difficult in the coming years due to the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*. This new generation of trainees, of which I am a part, is passionate and committed to providing the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortion. By showing the rest of the country that Hawai'i continues to be a leader in reproductive rights, we will continue to attract the top recruits to the state in fields like obstetrics and gynecology and family practice.

SB1 provides critical and timely updates to our abortion statute and protections to prevent legal actions against our healthcare providers and patients in Hawai'i, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided here. SB1 properly reinforces the public policy and state constitutional right of privacy in Hawai'i.

I think of the patient that I saw recently, who was on island visiting her family and just so happened to find out that she was pregnant a mere three days before she, along with her partner and toddler, was supposed to fly back to her home state. Continuing this pregnancy was not the right decision for her or her family, but abortion would not be an option for her once she left Hawai'i, and so she and her partner were left scrambling for appointments. Thankfully, she was able to make an appointment with our office and get the care she needed before her flight back.

This patient reminded me that the people of Hawai'i don't all live in Hawai'i. Many of them live on the mainland, and look forward to reuniting with their family and the beautiful weather during the holidays and birthdays, and every other day of the year. They deserve care just as their family who lives here does, and myself and other healthcare providers deserve to be able to take care of them without fear of civil lawsuits, criminal prosecution, and disciplinary action from foreign states, just for providing care that is fully legal in this state. I urge you to pass SB1.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:47:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dani Mathisen	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Dani Mathisen and I am an Ob Gyn in training here in Oahu. Prior to moving here, I lived in Texas where I was born and raised. In my fourth year of medical school, my husband and I were blessed with a miracle pregnancy. Everything went well. Im young, I took my vitamins, I never missed an appointment and our prenatal testing came back normal. At our anatomy scan, however, we learned that my daughter had multiple lethal fetal anomalies. Senate Bill 8 had just passed in Texas and we were unable to receive counseling on options more or less actual care. We turned to friends and google for advice and had to call multiple clinics before we found someone with availability to see us. This clinic was >600 miles from my home and we had to get on a plane the next day. What we did was completely legal in the state we went to, but we still lived in fear that our decision would come back to penalize us back in our home state. Having to leave my home was traumatizing enough, but worrying that state laws could pass state lines added that much more trauma and stress. I support SB1 so that other pregnant people like me don't have to suffer from the added stress of sharing personal medical decisions across state lines that could then penalize them. Such action violates provider and patient confidentiality and creates further barriers to an already difficult journey to navigate. These bills are vital to protect providers from undue disciplining for performing legal reproductive health care. By protecting providers we protect patients like myself and inumerous others.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:27:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Divya Dethier	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Dr Divya Dethier. I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist, and I am an abortion provider. I am testifying in in strong support of SB1 SD2.

Abortion care is, simply put, a necessary and integral part of reproductive healthcare.

I wish you could join me in just a single day in our clinic. I think of one patient, who is in college in Texas, who was sexually assaulted and flew home to Hawaii in order to end this pregnancy that was forced upon her. She flew back home because she felt safe here - safe with her family, but most importantly, safe with her state’s legislature that protected her ability to make this very intimate decision for herself.

I am proud to offer evidence-based, necessary care to my patients. But after Dobbs, my job and my livelihood are constantly overshadowed by a fear of losing my ability to care for my patients, for providing them with the care they need and deserve. With no federal protections left, restrictive laws enacted in other states still threaten me and my colleagues, even across the ocean, here in Hawaii.

I urge you to pass SB1 SD2, that would not only protect healthcare providers and allow us to continue to care for the people of Hawaii, but also expand access to this necessary healthcare by allowing advanced practice providers to offer abortion care in more rural areas.

I thank the Senate for passing this important measure, and I urge the House to pass it as well. Hawaii has a proud legacy as a leader of reproductive rights in this country. Let us continue this legacy, to support our people, support abortion providers, and support access to necessary healthcare. Mahalo.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:43:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Alvaro Caligtan	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

To:

House Committee on Health and Homelessness

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, Rep. David Tarnas, Chair, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Re: In strong support of SB1, SD2

My name is Grace Alvaro Caligtan. I am a community member who lives in House District 27 and Senate District 14. I am a dedicated community health educator who cares about protecting the dignity, safety, and futures of teens and young adults. This bill, as our Hawaii Attorney General has recognized in previous testimony, is “*consistent with Hawaii’s longstanding protection for sexual and reproductive rights.*” Furthermore, the director of the Department of Human Services, has also recognized, this bill “*supports an individual’s right to make health care decisions, including all reproductive health care, in a supportive and stress-free environment.*”

In my professional capacity, I get to hear youth, parent, and family concerns about reproductive and sexual health. In our conversations, I do my best to answer questions candidly and honestly, pointing to vetted resources and the range of diverse values that can inform the topic at hand. I am troubled, nonetheless, by the cruel and punishing weight of persistent abortion stigma and unfair double standards often disproportionately placed on the shoulders of girls and young women and trans and gender non conforming bodies. Seeking medically accurate answers and available, legal options for sexual and reproductive health is an enshrined freedom and social and political human right required to live in a free, democratic society. It is not a crime, and yet the national landscape in the US continent, leads us to fear that it could be. That is why SB 1 is critical in holding the line to safeguard abortion access and reproductive justice here in Hawai’i.

How can we teach young people about consent, personal responsibility, kuleana and bodily autonomy, if they can not rely on our HI statues to affirm that their bodies are their own? Youth and families in Hawaii deserve to be assured that support, compassion, and privacy to determine their own futures will continue to be upheld as the policy and practice

of Hawaii, whatever reproductive and sexual health decision they face. SB 1 decreases barriers for the most vulnerable and most burdened, by distance and economic situation. It continues to ensure and protect physician and patient confidentiality. And in this context for time sensitive health services, SB1 takes critical steps to:

- **Clarify that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people**
- **Allow physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care**
- **Protect access to telehealth abortion services**
- **Reinforce young peoples' ability to access abortion care**

Please vote in support of SB1, SD2. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF ELLEN GODBEY CARSON

I write in strong support of SB 1, SD 2

While I write as an individual, I have served as President of Hawaii Women Lawyers, the Hawaii State Bar Association, and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. The major part of my legal career was spent in civil rights and health law, including protecting our rights to abortion here in Hawaii.

We can be proud that Hawaii was the first state to recognize the right of access to safe and legal abortion (1970). Soon thereafter, the US Supreme Court recognized in *Roe v. Wade* a federal constitutional right to abortion, enshrining these protections on the federal level. In 2022, those rights were tragically destroyed due to changes in the US Supreme Court.

Sadly, our state abortion laws here in Hawaii over the past 50 years relied on the federal rights enshrined in *Roe v. Wade*. Our laws have not kept pace with medical advances, abortion by medication, neighbor island access needs, minors' needs, reproductive health care gaps in our community, or protections needed from foreign states who now seek to impose their punitive abortion bans on patients and providers in our islands. In short, we very much need to modernize and strengthen our laws to assure abortion services will continue to be at least as strong as those recognized under *Roe v. Wade*, so abortion access will be safe, medically appropriate, and protected for the next generations. SB 1 is a strong bill that will help meet these needs.

Please SUPPORT SB 1, SD 1, without need for amendment, as it will:

- Provide a clear, strong statement of state policy and fundamental rights to access safe, legal abortion for all pregnant persons in Hawaii
- Clarify that abortions are not limited to surgical procedures, and may instead be by medication. Medication abortion provides safety and accessibility benefits and is already the method of choice used in over half of abortions.
- Define “nonviable fetus” in a manner consistent with prevailing medical standards, and further recognize that termination of pregnancy of a viable fetus is also authorized if the termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the patient.
- Assure minors have access to safe, legal abortion care even if they are not able to obtain parental consent due to incest, fear of violence, eviction or other harm; or lack of loving parental relationships. While most minors do inform their parents and get their support, this protection is needed for minors who do not have a loving, caring home and where parents are either absent or may do harm to a minor who seeks an abortion.
- Provide numerous essential protections from civil and criminal liability, discovery proceedings and judicial procedures, as well as medical licensure disciplinary actions. We are facing threats of civil lawsuits, criminal prosecutions, and medical licensure disciplinary actions from foreign states who seek to impose

their punitive abortion bans on abortion providers and patients in this state. We need the strongest shield law we can create to protect our health care providers and their patients. Hawaii deserves the robust statutory protections from these challenges, as provided by this bill.

Mahalo for protecting our reproductive freedoms here in Hawaii.

Ellen Godbey Carson, Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear House Committee on Health and Homelessness (Chair Della Au Belatti) and House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (Chair David A. Tarnas), and the rest of the committee members,

My name is Sarah Combs and I am currently a fourth year PhD student at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa. **I am testifying today to support Senate Bill 1 "Relating to Health Care" that would expand and protect abortion access in Hawai'i and protect providers who provide this important medical service.**

Abortion care is health care.

I used to work at a Federally Qualified Health Center in New York City as a Sexual Health Educator, where I worked with women to achieve their pregnancy related goals. A large part of this job was comprehensive options counseling. When a person came to the clinic for a pregnancy test, we would talk about the pros and cons of continuing the pregnancy, adoption, and abortion, in the context of their own life. This was a key part of the counseling – what would continuing or terminating a pregnancy mean to them, their lives and their goals? **Many pregnant people would tell me "I never thought I would consider an abortion but there's no way I can be pregnant right now".**

I think about the person who came to me when she received a positive pregnancy test and broke down crying because the pregnancy was either a result of her abusive boyfriend or a recent rape.

I think about a 15 year old student who got pregnant on the very first time she had sex and had dreams of going to college and becoming a doctor.

I think about a friend of mine who got pregnant with triplets when she already had two children and underlying health conditions that would make continuing a pregnancy dangerous. She lives in a state that now has very restrictive laws that would make it very difficult for her to obtain an abortion.

All of these people had reasons for not wanting to be pregnant and each of their situations could bring forth judgement from others about why they were considering an abortion. Not all of them chose abortion in the end, but the underlying facts remain the same:

- When a pregnancy is unplanned, there are ramifications for a person's life no matter how they choose to move forward.
- Abortion is a very safe procedure with fewer complications than continuing a pregnancy.
- **No one should be coerced or forced into having an abortion OR continuing a pregnancy; it is one of the most intimate and important choices that a pregnant person can face and the right to choose and access to care must be protected.**

The recent overturn of *Roe v Wade* has created confusion and fear around pregnancy and abortion. It passes the responsibility to the State to ensure that the right to choose stays protected. At this point, **I would like to strongly reiterate my support for SB 1 as a first step to protecting these rights. I urge you to pass this important bill** to protect and expand abortion access to people who considering termination and protect the medical professionals who provide this essential service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sarah Combs

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:49:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernadette Pada	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Bernadette Pada. I am a MSW student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am in full SUPPORT of SB 1 SD 2, relating to Healthcare. This bill protects an individuals right to abortion in the state and safeguards against state interference. It also provides protection for providers that assist, provide, or refer to reproductive healthcare services. Lets keep Hawaii a safe space and place for women to access health care services pertaining to abortion.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 2:29:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i am in full support. Women's health is to be decided the by woman and her medical team. That must be protected. The body belongs to the woman, no one else. Please move this bill forward.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:01:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

I strongly support this and other protections for those seeking to access safe and private reproductive health care, and for those practicing this important branch of health care within the State of Hawai‘i.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:50:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the City & County of Honolulu and support this Bill

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:52:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1 SD2.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:19:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1 saves women's lives.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:21:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Thielen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly and respectfully submit testimony in support of SB1, SD2. Growing up in the 1950's, seven decades ago, I knew about many tragic deaths of young women who had tried to get abortions. Health care has evolved, and presently women can seek competent care. No more back-alley botched abortions. But this competent medical care is under attack in our country. We, as a State that has protected women's rights to control their bodies, needs to ensure these rights are protected in law. SB1, SD2 will do this, and I urge you to pass this Bill.

Thielen

Sincerely, Representative (Retired) Cynthia

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:32:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - Please support SB 1 and help our physicians's provide the care are female residents need and deserve. Mahalo. Judith Mick, Kailua

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:39:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellior Marcus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 7:27:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear chairs and members,

I strongly support SB1. I am a 50 year old woman who does not want to carry a baby at my age if my pregnancy prevention method fails. Women at any age have the right to choose. There are a lot of human beings on Earth. We need to take care of the living beings and their environment, not force women to carry on unwanted or dangerous pregnancies.

Many states have banned abortion care since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. That means that abortion providers in these states might be disciplined or lose their professional license, just for providing the care their patients need. To protect health care in Hawai'i, we must protect our health providers and strengthen legal protections for abortion care.

SB 1 does many things to protect abortion access. It clarifies that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people. It allows physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care, addressing Hawai'i's provider shortage. It also protects access to telehealth abortion services.

SB 1 also protects abortion providers, so they can focus on patient care, not lawsuits meant to threaten and distract them. SB1 indeed limits cooperation with other states' investigations about abortion. It prohibits medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide abortion care that is legal in Hawai'i. And it eliminates old laws that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care.

For all these reasons, please support SB1.

Thank you for your attention.

Severine Busquet

Honolulu, 96825

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:18:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% SUPPORT THIS BILL! Every female should have the right and choice to decide whether they want or need an abortion. It shouldn't be made for them. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL! Think of your daughter's, nieces and granddaughter's.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:35:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 7:34:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nash Witten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

As a born and raised primary care Family Medicine physician practicing in Wai‘anae and Hale‘iwa, O‘ahu, I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill,

Nash Witten, MD

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 7:49:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth D King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is with utmost importance that lawmakers support and Lawmakers Should Pass SB 1 to Safeguard Abortion Access and Protect Providers in Hawai'i

In this moment, legislators should show up stronger than ever in their support of abortion access. Women must have thier freedom and human right to make choices about thier bodies, thier future and be respected as equals.

Im a product of sexual abuse from a brother, from a man 13 years older than me when I was only 14 years old he groomed me for sex. Thank God I had the rights growing up to make MY own choice on when I felt ready to become a mom and not be trapped in poverty just because I male was sexually attracted to me and went on the attack with manipulative means. Please do what is PONO for the woman of this state!

Wednesday March 15, 2023, Room 325

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Chair, Rep. Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair, Rep. David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair, Rep. Gregg Takayma

From: Jean Evans, (Individual)

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1, SD 2- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

My name is Jean Evans and **I am Strong support of SB 1, SD 2 Relating to Health Care.**

Hawaii has been a leader in recognizing the importance of protecting reproductive rights. However, following the recent the U.S. Supreme Court decision Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization which overturned Roe v Wade, an increasing number of states have been passing legislation restricting access to abortion within their state. It is imperative that Hawaii formalize protection for access to abortion services. Protecting access to abortion necessitates protecting our current healthcare and abortion care workforce.

This version of the bill provides comprehensive changes to the Hawaii statutes to protect providers as well as protect an individual's right to obtain an abortion.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony to day and I encourage you to pass this important measure.

Jean Evans

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 11:14:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a next step in Hawaii's leadership role in protecting a woman's right to choose what happens to her body, and her right to privacy.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 2:12:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nakata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michele Nakata, a resident of Senate District 11 and House District 22, and I stand in **strong support** of S.B. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Healthcare, which proposes to update Hawai'i's abortion statutes, provide additional protection for medical providers who perform abortions, and strengthen and protect inclusive access to abortion and sexual and reproductive health care for all persons. Hawaii was the first state to legalize abortion (1970). However, our state laws have become antiquated and need to be strengthened to ensure safe and legal access to abortion for all persons in Hawaii. The Dobbs vs. Jackson decision jeopardizes the legal and literal safety of the health care workforce.

Please protect the privacy of individuals, the right of self-determination for people to make their own health care decisions with full access to the extent of medical care that can be provided, including abortion, and the safety of our abortion providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 4:30:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support SB1 because:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Date: March 10, 2023

To: Committee: House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Chair: Rep. Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair: Rep. Jenna Takenouch

To: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Chair: Rep. David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair: Rep. Gregg Takayama

From: Terry Rosenstock

Hearing Date/Time/Room: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, **2:00 pm, Rm. 325**

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1, SD2 RELATING TO Reproductive Rights

Dear Chairs Au Belatti and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouch, Takayama and members of the Committee. My name is Terry Rosenstock and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1 SD2.

Hawaii has been a leader in recognizing the importance of protecting reproductive rights. However, following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v Jackson, Women's Health Organization* which overturned *Roe v Wade*, an increasing number of states have been passing legislation restricting access to abortion within their state. It is imperative that Hawaii formalize protection for access to abortion services. Protecting access to abortion necessitates protecting our current healthcare and abortion care workforce as well as protecting the individual's right to safe and legal reproductive health care.

When I was 30 years old, I had broken up with the man I had been seeing only a short time, had just completed my MBA, was starting my professional career with a major US corporation, and discovered myself pregnant due to a mal-functioning IUD. I had always taken precautions to ensure that I would not become pregnant, but precautions are not foolproof. I did not want to be a 30-year-old single mother. As a result of safe and legal access to reproductive care, I was able to terminate that unwanted pregnancy. I went on to have a very successful 20-year career with a major US corporation and have the means to purchase homes that now allow me to experience a financially secure retirement. I was able to contribute to my niece's college expenses so she was not overly burdened with massive student debt, as well as being able to support the arts and other non-profits. I have never regretted that decision and do not want any women denied the opportunity I was afforded 42 years ago.

I urge you to support this bill.

Regards,

Terry Rosenstock

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 6:11:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon R Keith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care

- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to help address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 7:16:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Mon Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs to lead in protecting women's rights. Please don't let us down.

Support passage of SB 1 for all of us.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:43:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HLT and JHA Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee members,

As a deeply concerned citizen and public health professional, I write in strong support of SB1 SD2, which would protect people seeking abortions in Hawai'i from regulations in other state.

First of all, Hawai'i should not be subject to laws and rules in other jurisdictions, as they do not represent the will and spirit of the local communities. Furthermore, limiting abortion access is not beneficial to public health leading to both economic and social harm. For more information on the public health importance of abortion access, please refer to :
<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/public-health-in-the-field-the-public-health-case-for-abortion-rights>.

Please help keep our islands safe and healthy.

With thanks,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:00:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Geil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is crucial that our doctors and other personnel are not made afraid to give the care they believe is appropriate because of harsh, threatening laws in other states that steal choice away from patients and their providers. We have to protect our own citizens from such invasive legislation from those states.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:26:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chairs and Members,

I strongly support SB1. Given the developments across the country to limit abortions, it is important that Hawaii stand up for the rights of women who make this difficult choice and the physicians that assist them. Importantly, this bill:

- clarifies that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- allows physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care, addressing Hawai'i's provider shortage
- protects access to telehealth abortion services

SB 1 also protects abortion providers, so they can focus on patient care, not lawsuits meant to threaten and distract them:

- limits cooperation with other states' investigations about abortion
- prohibits medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide abortion care that is legal in Hawai'i
- eliminates old laws that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care.

Please pass SB1. Mahalo!

Helen Cox,

Kalaheo, Kauai

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:45:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We who live in Hawaii need to protect our physicians from states trying to come after them for providing abortion care, which is 100% safe and legal in Hawai'i while also ensuring *all* people can access abortion care, including transgender and nonbinary people.

Thank you.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:52:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1 SD2 to keep reproductive freedom in Hawaii. Mahalo.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:57:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mills-Wong Judith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1 which protects a woman's right to privacy and autonomy. In light of the shifting national situation, this bill protects the families of Hawaii and their right to make their own reproductive choices. I applaud the legislature for taking this action.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:44:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

for all of the personal, social, civil and other core freedom, democratic and decency reasons, HB 1 should and must be passed. our state has set the standard for a woman's right to control her destiny including the right to decide when, and if, she will have children.

mahalo for stopping the onslaught against women's deepest rights that's sweeping our nation.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:36:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Matayoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support the passing of SB1,

Protect the reproductive right of choice for women. Future generation depend on us taking actions now.

Thank you for your supportive vote.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:47:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curt Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill SB1.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:48:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 1:58:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1 SD2.

Medical privacy and freedom must be protected. Without SB1 SD2, countless patients and doctors could be in jeopardy for simply seeking or providing health care.

Please, please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

(Lifelong Hawai'i resident)

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 2:51:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coralie Matayoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1 because:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter.

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
and Committee on Health & Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 325 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in strong support of SB1 relating to Health Care

Dear Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee and the Health & Homelessness Committee,

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, am in strong support of S1 Relating to Health Care.

Many states have banned abortion care since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. That means that abortion providers in these states might be disciplined or lose their professional license, just for providing the care their patients need. To protect health care in Hawai'i, we must protect our health providers and strengthen legal protections for abortion care.

SB 1 does many things to protect abortion access:

- clarifies that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- allows physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care, addressing Hawai'i's provider shortage
- protects access to telehealth abortion services.

SB 1 also protects abortion providers, so they can focus on patient care, not lawsuits meant to threaten and distract them:

- limits cooperation with other states' investigations about abortion
- prohibits medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide abortion care that is legal in Hawai'i
- eliminates old laws that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB1.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:30:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avery Olson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

I am an OB/GYN in training on Oahu, Hawaii. I know you have already heard from many of us healthcare providers, but we are in a privileged place as we know firsthand the importance of access to abortion care in promoting the wellbeing of Hawaii's families. Abortion care, put simply, reduces pregnancy-related illness and death.

SB1 protections to prevent legal actions against our healthcare providers, including myself and all of those who work across the islands. Protection of providers means protection of the care we provide for our patients, including those from Hawaii and the mainland.

Lawmakers in conservative states have threatened to introduce bills to penalize abortion care provided in Hawaii. This includes threats of civil law suits, criminal prosecution, and disciplinary action against healthcare providers. This includes action against providers for performing abortion services that are fully legal in Hawaii. This means providers may be afraid to offer the standard of care for fear of legal repercussions.

SB1 reinforces that hostile laws by foreign states are contrary to the public policy and state constitutional right of privacy in Hawaii.

I think of a patient from another state I once took care of who came in with rupture of membranes at early gestation. Her condition was incompatible with life for the fetus, and she was developing a fever. This required an abortion to save the patient from a harmful infection that could be fatal, so she received her abortion on Oahu. She was from a state that now is attempting to pass laws that not only would fine me for giving her an abortion to save her life, but perhaps even prevent me from practicing and providing future care to Hawaiian people.

I urge you to pass SB 1 as amended.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Avery

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:29:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. This bill:

- clarifies that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- allows physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care, addressing Hawai'i's provider shortage
- protects access to telehealth abortion services

SB 1 also protects abortion providers, so they can focus on patient care, not lawsuits meant to threaten and distract them:

- limits cooperation with other states' investigations about abortion
- prohibits medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide abortion care that is legal in Hawai'i
- eliminates old laws that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care.

Mahalo for your support.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:21:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daylan Saniatan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of this bill!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:23:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Rep. Gregg Takayama and Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I support SB1 SD2. Please support and pass SB1 SD2.

There are few advertised health clinics where people can get an abortion, and the pool of abortion providers in Hawai'i is small. Protecting access to abortion necessitates protecting our current abortion workforce.

Patients may see a variety of healthcare providers prior to getting an abortion. For example, a patient may go to an urgent care clinic due to feeling ill, be told by the family physician at the clinic that they're pregnant, get referred to an ultrasound where they are seen by a radiology technician and radiologist. Then eventually they get referred to the abortion provider.

All of these health care providers along the way are providing abortion-related healthcare (i.e. healthcare related to the patient getting an abortion).

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v Jackson Womens Health Organization* which overturned *Roe v Wade*, an increasing number of states has been passing legislation restricting access to abortion within their state.



NBC News updated 1/12/2023

Recently some lawmakers have been proposing action to restrict their residents from crossing state borders to get an abortion. Proposed action has included allowing private citizens to sue anyone who “aids and abets” a state’s resident in getting an abortion.

Abortion providers in Hawai’i are already taking care of residents from some of these states.

Bottom line:

People of Hawai’i have stated time and again that they support access to abortion care.

Protecting access to abortion necessitates protecting our current healthcare and abortion care workforce.

This proposed bill would codify and expand on Governor Ige’s Executive Order 22-05 by: 1) Prohibiting disclosure of healthcare information related to abortion obtained in Hawai’i without the consent of the patient/guardian for purposes of civil litigation in another state related to that abortion;

2) Prohibiting circuit courts from issuing a subpoena requested by another state in connection with an out-of-state proceeding related to an abortion legally performed in Hawaii;

3) Prohibiting state agencies or officials from providing any information or expending any time, facilities, personnel or other resources in furthering interstate investigation seeking to impose civil or criminal liability upon a person for the provision or receipt of abortion care legal in Hawaii or for assisting any person in providing/seeking/receiving abortion care legal in Hawaii;

4) Prohibiting a licensing authority (such as the Medical Board) from revoking, suspending or otherwise penalizing the license issued by the state of Hawaii to a health care provider solely upon that health care provider providing, assisting, aiding, referring or otherwise participating in abortion care so long as the service were otherwise performed in accordance with state laws.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns regarding this right to healthcare.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:30:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 1.

SB 1 protects access to vital reproductive health. Hawai'i has often been in the forefront for reproductive health rights and justice. Please continue that proud legacy. This bill also addresses and works to rectify our health care provider shortage.

SB1:

- clarifies that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- allows physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care, addressing Hawai'i's provider shortage
- protects access to telehealth abortion services

SB 1 also protects abortion providers, so they can focus on patient care, not lawsuits meant to threaten and distract them:

- limits cooperation with other states' investigations about abortion
- prohibits medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide abortion care that is legal in Hawai'i
- eliminates old laws that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care.

Thank you for supporting this critical bill.

Joanne Amberg, CNM, MSN, MPH

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:20:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1, creating needed protections for women's health care!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:16:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi

I m a family medicine physician on Oahu and I support SB1.

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Thank you!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:26:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1 because it helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties and protects rights of choice and access to safe abortion care.

And it authorizes physician assistants to help address our shortage of abortion providers, especially on neighbor islands, to ensure better access and prompt care services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Nelson

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:42:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Baunach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill due the following:

This proposed bill would codify and expand on Governor Ige’s Executive Order 22-05 by:

- 1) Prohibiting disclosure of healthcare information related to abortion obtained in Hawai’i without the consent of the patient/guardian for purposes of civil litigation in another state related to that abortion;
- 2) Prohibiting circuit courts from issuing a subpoena requested by another state in connection with an out-of-state proceeding related to an abortion legally performed in Hawaii;
- 3) Prohibiting state agencies or officials from providing any information or expending any time, facilities, personnel or other resources in furthering interstate investigation seeking to impose civil or criminal liability upon a person for the provision or receipt of abortion care legal in Hawaii or for assisting any person in providing/seeking/receiving abortion care legal in Hawaii;
- 4) Prohibiting a licensing authority (such as the Medical Board) from revoking, suspending or otherwise penalizing the license issued by the state of Hawaii to a health care provider solely upon that health care provider providing, assisting, aiding, referring or otherwise participating in abortion care so long as the service were otherwise performed in accordance with state laws.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:58:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jake Ishikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Health and Homelessness, and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committees,

My name is Jake Ishikawa, and I strongly support Senate Bill 1 SD2 which helps to strengthen Hawai's state policy to an individual's right to privacy and a women's right to choose. Roe v. Wade was the law of the land for almost 50 years and in 2022, six people changed the right to an abortion for everyone. The State of Hawai'i must protect and guarantee a women's right to choose and a person's right to privacy.

Once again, I strongly support Senate Bill 1 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With gratitude,

Jake Ishikawa

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:00:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to safe abortion care is part of the fundamental human right to health and bodily autonomy. Women have the right to choose abortion as a legitimate medical option in planning their own healthcare, and no one else has a right to interfere in that decision.

There is no valid justification for infringing on this right. Exerting any form of control over a woman's bodily autonomy is patriarchal violence. It is a human rights violation. Despite this, religious fundamentalists in Republican-controlled states are passing sweeping, deadly, authoritarian bans on this component of reproductive healthcare.

Hawai'i must stand for human rights, for access to healthcare, and for freedom from religious fanaticism. We must do everything within our power to strengthen abortion protections within our jurisdiction.

As part of this duty, our state must guarantee and protect the privacy of those seeking and of those providing abortion services and reproductive healthcare. Republican abortion bans on the continent often contain provisions to persecute abortion seekers who travel to states like Hawai'i to access care, as well as providers who deliver care in other jurisdictions. The threat within these laws can have a chilling effect on abortion-seekers and providers.

Hawai'i must send a strong signal that we will not cooperate with these attempts to persecute care-seekers or -providers in their home states. Please pass SB1 SD2.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:36:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marjorie Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i always has been at the forefront of protecting women's reproductive health. With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, now, more than ever, updated protective legislation is needed. In particular, SB 1 will protect providers and patients of abortion health care in Hawaii against punitive legal actions. SB 1 facilitates strong, continued protection for the women of Hawai'i.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:52:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist and I provide abortion care in Hawaii. I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1 to protect access to abortion in our state. Access to abortion is critical for Hawaii's families, and legislation to preserve that right is more important now than ever. I strongly urge you to support SB1 and continue our state's rich legacy of supporting reproductive rights.

Mahalo,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:58:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Quattlebaum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support SB1 because:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:00:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill to ensure women have control over their private medical decisions, and expand their options to do so!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:11:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Manali-Leonardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to care in Hawaii is a right to *any* person, at *any* age, at *any* time.

I am in strong support of SB 1.

Nancy Manali-Leonardo (Rt.) RN, BEd.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:12:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

My Name is Linda Kim. I am an APRN and I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care. While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

March 13, 2023

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB1** RELATING TO HEALTHCARE
HEARING: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair of Committee on Health & Homelessness
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair of Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chairs and Committee members:

This letter is to strongly support SB1, which aims to modernize and protect individual reproductive rights in Hawaii and to assure better access and prompt abortion care services. It is critical to the right to ensure reproductive freedom as a consequence of the Supreme Court overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Growing up in Hawaii and understanding that I had reproductive rights afforded me the right to choose when and with whom I wanted to have children with, which made a significant and positive impact in my own life. When I was twenties, I was in a toxic relationship and I cannot imagine how different my life would have been without the ability to make reproductive decisions so that I was not tied to that person due to any unplanned pregnancy. Fast forward a few decades, I now have a successful career as a partner in a law firm and am a contributing member to society by serving on non-profit boards and volunteering to worthy causes. I have wonderful husband who is a loving father and we raised two good young men. Without my reproductive rights, I would not be the person I am today and I urge you to protect these rights for generations to follow.

Thank you for allowing me to provide comment in strong support of SB1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Sharkey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lauren R. Sharkey
c/o Case Lombardi
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:19:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:23:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women's rights should be protected.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:41:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello

My name is Nanea Lo and I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:12:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Silbiger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HLT/JHA Committees,

I Support SB1 because:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care.
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Sincerely,

Jenny Silbiger

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 1:13:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilina DeCosta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1 SD2, which would allow a licensed physician's assistant to perform medical abortions.

A woman's right to decide whether or not to proceed with a pregnancy is a private matter. Allowing qualified medical professionals to provide safe, medical abortions supports a woman's right to choose whether or not to proceed with a pregnancy.

Please pass SB1 SD2. Mahalo

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:19:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL H WHITE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1 in the House. I believe with the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, and the Republicans refusing to restore women's rights by statute, it is imperative that Hawaii act to protect the rights of our citizens. SB 1 is an important step to doing so, and the House should pass this measure overwhelmingly and promptly to reflect the rights of the women of Hawaii.

Paul White

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:21:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tia pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tia Pearson and I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all. Abortion is an important part of women's healthcare as well as controlling family spacing and health of the unborn.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:36:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Esteemed Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of SB1, which guarantees the fundamental right of a person to make their own informed decisions with their body and protects individuals from harmful and illegitimate overreach of outside state jurisdictions.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

I support SB1 and any legislation that helps protect, promote, and guarantee the rights of people to have full and sole control over their own bodies and make their own decisions regarding their healthcare. This includes the right to an abortion, gender affirming care etc.

The attacks by right wing religious fanatics and Christian white nationalists on fundamental rights going on across America and around the world are hallmarks of fascism. It is extremely important to take strong stands in support of protecting and enhancing individual rights at every opportunity.

Beware Of Fascism

**Powerful and Continuing Nationalism
Disdain For Human Rights
Identification Of Enemies As A Unifying Cause
Supremacy Of The Military
Rampant Sexism
Controlled Mass Media
Obsession With National Security
Religion And Government Intertwined
Corporate Power Protected
Labor Power Suppressed
Disdain For Intellectuals And The Arts
Obsession With Crime And Punishment
Rampant Cronyism And Corruption
Fraudulent Elections
Wars Of Aggression**

**When FASCISM Comes
To AMERICA, It Will Be
Wrapped In A FLAG
& Carrying A CROSS**

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:27:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, & HLT Committee Members: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, & JHA Committee Members: Please pass SB1 to remove unnecessary barriers to abortion care and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:41:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully ask that the legislature act promptly to pass SB1 without amendment. It is a comprehensive bill which continues Hawaii's fifty-year legacy of protecting the rights of women and girls to seek safe and expert medical care, including abortion. The bill appropriately reaffirms in this state the protections that existed under Roe v Wade until stripped away by the current Supreme Court. It modernizes Hawaii's abortion statutes by removing some old provisions. It includes physician assistants and protects our essential healthcare providers against the draconian, anti-choice, anti-privacy laws in some other states. I am so grateful to live in this state where our residents and legislators have a long and proud history of supporting an individual's right to reproductive healthcare, including abortion. I ask that you continue to protect these rights with SB1.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Taylor

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:41:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne Barbee-Wooten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support a Woman's right to choose what to do with her body. This bill makes it clear that Hawaii will remain Pro Choice and adds protections to ensure every woman can chose whether or not to have birth control, including abortions. This bill allows nurse practitioners and more clinics for women on neighboring islands. I support this bill and urge all legislators to pass it. Thank you.

Daphne Barbee-Wooten, Atty. at Law

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:54:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Kaulana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote yes to expand & protect the rights for a woman's right to choose. I am a Catholic, part Native Hawaiian woman, living in Palolo Valley. I was born and raised in Kaimuki. I believe in protecting & expanding reproductive healthcare for women including abortion rights. Autonomy over one's body and the right to make your own medical decisions regarding your personal health & wellbeing is a fundamental human right. This is respecting the dignity of life by giving women autonomy over our bodies and medical decisions without fear of prosecution, etc. This is also about privacy and the dignity afforded every woman to make personal medical decisions privately. Women are a huge part of our workforce, are most often relied upon to raise families, and should have a fundamental right of making decisions regarding her/our own body/bodies that is in the best interest of her/our physical, emotional, mental, and financial wellbeing & that of our family & community. Those personal decisions should always be protected and supported. I am a strong woman of Faith and yet I do support this bill because even God gave us free will as a basic human right. To not protect & expand a women's autonomy over her reproductive healthcare decisions is an injustice and does not honor the dignity of the life of every woman as a human being. To me this bill is about basic human rights not just women's rights. So please give all women the dignity and respect of autonomy over our bodies, our healthcare and our lives by voting YES on SB1 SD2. My personal medical decisions regarding my own body should come down to myself, my doctor, & my God. Thank you for supporting & protecting my right to life by voting YES! Mahalo nui loa!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:44:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my SUPPORT for SB1 SD2.

Dina Shek
Honolulu, HI 96822

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 15, 2023

Re: SUPPORT for SB 1, SD 2, Relating to Health Care

Dear Committee Members,

I offer this testimony in my personal capacity to strongly support SB 1, SD 2 which modernizes our abortion statutes and affirms safe and accessible reproductive health care in Hawai‘i. In my professional work as the Legal Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai‘i, I have seen the dire consequences of limited resources for young and low-income people who need access to immediate, safe, and confidential abortion care. Even with Hawaii’s dedicated corps of abortion care providers, we have a critical need to update our statutes, remove antiquated restrictions and penalties, protect healthcare providers, and expand reproductive health care access, especially for neighbor island and rural communities.

The state of Hawai‘i has protected abortion rights for over 50 years, and Native Hawaiians have recognized abortion care as “a fundamental part of our *maoli ola*, our health care,” long before colonization.¹ Unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* changes the calculus for everyone. Medical providers and others have enumerated barriers to access in Hawai‘i, including the lack of clinical services on neighbor islands, increased threats to providers by outside entities, and the heightened stigma fueled by *Dobbs*.² Hawai‘i must respond by recommitting to safe and accessible abortion care as a normal part of pregnancy care.

SB 1, SD 2 updates Hawaii’s abortion statutes to conform with our state’s decades-long history of safe and accessible reproductive health care, including abortion care. Our state’s commitment to reproductive health care positively impacts the physical and mental health, economic security, and safety of women and pregnant people. SB 1, SD 2 has broad support, and it will strengthen all families and communities in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1, SD 2.

/s/

Dina Shek

¹ Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi, *Abortion care has a long history among Hawai‘i’s Indigenous people*, Hawai‘i Public Radio, June 29, 2022 at <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2022-06-29/native-hawaiian-traditions-and-perspectives-on-abortion-centers-health-care-womens-rights>.

² Brittany Lyte, *A State Abortion Coordinator? Hawaii Lawmakers Consider Overcoming Barriers To Access*, Honolulu Civil Beat, January 30, 2023 at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/01/a-state-abortion-coordinator-hawaii-lawmakers-consider-overcoming-barriers-to-access/>. See also <https://www.hawaiiabortioncollective.com/>.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 2:32:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testify in support of [SB1 SD2](#) - Protecting Reproductive Rights

HLT/JHA at 2:00pm March 15th

Aloha e Chair & Vice Chair,

My name is ANDREW ISODA and I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

TALKING POINTS

From [ACLU of Hawai'i Statement on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#)

- **Abortion in Hawai'i is legal, but still needs to be more equitable.**
- **Let's be clear: abortion is still legal in Hawai'i. However, it is equally clear that even though it is legal, abortion and healthcare access remains inaccessible to many people, especially people who are poor, people who live in rural areas or on islands without easily accessible clinics, and for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Indigenous people and people of color who already experience significant health disparities.**
- **The ACLU of Hawai'i has historically been on the forefront of fighting to protect the right to abortion, such as suing the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on behalf of abortion and medical providers back in 2017 for its unconstitutional restrictions on where and how patients can access mifepristone, a medication used for early abortion and miscarriage care. The FDA just last year repealed such restriction, pressured by our lawsuit.**

From [ACLU National post-Roe abortion talking points guide](#)

- **People across the country have made it clear: we support access to abortion. Politicians shouldn't be in control of our lives, we should. It's time that our laws and policies reflect our values.**
- **The freedom to fully control our bodies, lives, and futures is vital to all of us—and we won't rest until that vision is a reality.**
- **We're building a world in which we're free to make our own decisions, define our own path in life, and safely care for our families and communities.**
- **Living a safe and healthy life is a basic right, and that includes being able to get abortion care. When we put people's health, safety, and real-life needs first, we all have an opportunity to thrive.**
- **The impact of abortion bans falls hardest on those who already face unequal barriers to health care, especially young people, LGBTQ+ people, and Black and Brown people.**
- **When politicians ban abortion care, it affects us all, wherever we live. In states that have banned abortion, clinics are closing, and people are left with fewer options during pregnancy. In states where abortion remains legal, clinics are grappling with**

an influx of patients from across the country, and many people still struggle to access the care they need.

- **Community by community, state by state, we are joining together to reclaim our freedom to control our lives and safely care for ourselves, our families, and our communities.**
- **The people have spoken, and we have made it clear that we want to protect abortion access.**
- **It's critical that we have the right to abortion, but as we've seen, legal access alone is not enough. We won't stop until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.**

From/adapted from [HAC abortion guide](#)

- **Abortion is our cultural heritage and future. Prior to Western colonization, abortion was a family planning practice in Hawai'i.**
- **Barriers to abortion are colonial. A lack of legal abortion is instrumental in demoting**

women's status in society and limiting women's participation outside of the home.

- **Abortion does not only affect women. Māhū, transgender, gender non-conforming and**

gender-oppressed people are impacted by abortion rights. At the same time, the attack on abortion is a war on women and about relegating women to a subordinate, humiliating role in a patriarchal society.

- **Abortion restrictions will impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor women of color and gender-oppressed people hardest, thus compounding our powerlessness under colonial rule.**
- **Access to age-appropriate, culturally competent, factual information about abortion services is essential to universal abortion access.**
- **The most-impacted by abortion barriers must be at the center, not the edge of defining abortion rights in Hawai'i.**
- **Abortion is not the litmus test for good politics. Abortion is inseparable from other issues that ensure a fair, egalitarian and joyful Hawai'i.**
- **Ignorance about women's bodies and reproduction has been systematically cultivated (Tuana 2006). Ignorance is linked to oppression. Collective knowledge about our bodies is therefore fundamental to women's liberation. (p.1)**
- **It's important to note that abortion legality does not mean that abortion is freely accessible to all people in need of abortion. Abortion remains difficult to access due to lack of abortion infrastructure that overcomes the financial and geographical constraints on Native Hawaiian women, immigrant women, women of color, poor**

women, youth, the LGBTQIA+ community, military dependents, people with disabilities and those living on islands without an abortion provider or clinic. (p. 2)

From [ACLU Hawai'i testimony](#) on [HB 576 \(2021 leg sess\)](#)

- 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 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. COVID19 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, 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.
- 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.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 2:34:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Farnsworth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1 which will provide safe reproductive health care to women of childbearing age.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 3:17:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB1, SD2 because Hawaii should remain a leader in recognizing the importance of protecting reproductive rights, including access to abortion services. I come from a family of many healthcare professionals, including myself. All of us should absolutely be protected from any consequences due to any involvement associated with women's healthcare needs. A patient needing an abortion or desiring one, may come in contact with many healthcare workers for evaluation prior to even getting an abortion. All healthcare providers, including professionals performing abortions, should not be in risk of disobeying a law when they provide these healthcare services.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision Dobbs v Jackson has put the lives of many women at risk, has pummeled women's rights, interfered with the ability of physicians and other healthcare workers to provide necessary reproductive healthcare and criminalized some health care workers, including physicians, for providing abortion services. This anachronistic, punitive, misogynistic decision by the Supreme Court makes it imperative that Hawaii formalize protection for access to abortion services and keep women, in some cases, children, as well as health care providers protected and safe.

I urge to pass Bill SB1, SD2 to ensure access to abortion is protected as well as our current healthcare and abortion workforce and the individual's right to safe and legal reproductive health care.

Mahalo for protecting women's rights and healthcare professionals.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 3:29:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Hintzen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to full reproductive choice is a fundamental necessity for health, freedom, and equity. Given the ways in which reproductive rights are being rolled back across the country the provisions in this bill are very very necessary to protect doctors and patients in Hawai'i. I urge you to please support this bill and continue to protect and expand access to full reproductive health care for all of Hawai'i's people. Thank you.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 3:43:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT IN THE STRONGEST TERMS!!!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 3:57:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Lander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have seen that as abortion rights have eroded on the mainland pregnant people have been put into situations that imminently threaten their health. As the most geographically isolated state, Hawaii's pregnant population does not have an option to easily travel elsewhere to seek services. Abortions are healthcare, and no reason should be needed for getting an abortion as it is a woman's right to choose what she does with her body and future. I am disturbed to see that on the mainland people have been telling their stories after their pregnancies endanger their life, but they are refused life-saving care. This bill is additionally important to safe guard medical practitoners from legal action for just doing their jobs.

Protecting the right to a safe abortion should be of the upmost important in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of Hawaii's constituents. Mahalo.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:50:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel M. Willey, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Angel Willey. I'm the current ACOG (American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology) Hawaii Section Chair. I strongly support this important bill to provide protection for our health care providers in Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Dr. Angel Willey

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 5:14:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, HI

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 5:23:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear House Committee on Health & Homelessness and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SBSD2 and to support access to abortion in Hawaii without restrictions. Thank you for taking the time to amend our laws to ensure healthcare is accessible in Hawaii to all who seek it.

Mahalo,

Le'a Minton, MSN, APRN, CNM, IBCLC, IMH-E

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 5:38:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my testimony in strong support of SB1 SD2, which allows a licensed physician assistant may provide certain abortions, repeals the requirement that abortions be performed at certain locations, clarifies that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to choose to (1) obtain an abortion or (2) if necessary to protect the life or health of the patient terminate the pregnancy. Defines "abortion" and "nonviable fetus", prohibits a covered entity from disclosing information relating to reproductive health care services, prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state or interstate proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State, prohibits agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance of out-of-state or interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services, prohibits the State from taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services, requires the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State or is made under Article IV, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution, enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application, prohibits the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care services, clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of certain services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action, prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services, and amends the definition of "medical care and services" so that a minor may consent to receive abortion care without any other person's consent.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:49:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haaheo Mansfield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Testimony Presented Before the House of Representatives Committees on Health and Homelessness
and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm

By Camlyn Masuda

SB 1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. Abortion.

To the Honorable Chairs Belatti and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama and members of the Health and Homelessness and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committees

My name is Camlyn Masuda and I am an Associate Specialist and Clinical Pharmacist with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 693, A Bill to Mandate Reimbursement for Pharmacists' Services. My testimony does not represent the views of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

I support SB1 because it creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawai'i, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.

It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Because there is a physician shortage in Hawaii, this bill will help support providers that offer woman reproductive services without fear of retribution.

As a pharmacist I serve many people who have limited income and those who do not understand what services are available to them. Having this bill will ensure that women will have the right to choose the option that best fits them and not have that dictated by our government.

I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee see fit to pass SB1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Camlyn Masuda, PharmD, CDCES, BCACP
Associate Specialist, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Assistant Clinical Specialist, Dept. of Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa-John A. Burns School of Medicine
Clinical Scholars Alumni
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste 1025A
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: camlynm@hawaii.edu

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:59:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Rustad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1 SD2.

Two things are abundantly clear to me - all pregnant people should have the right to make their own reproductive health care decisions including access to abortion care and healthcare providers should only be responsible for acting in accordance with the laws of Hawaii.

Please provide these protections to pregnant people and their reproductive care providers by passing SB1 SD2.

Cindy Goldstein
98-814 C Kaonohi Street
Aiea, HI 96701

SB1_SD2 Related to Health Care and Abortion Rights
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 State Capitol

Position: Strongly Support

Chair Representative Belatti, Chair Representative Tarnas, and Vice Chair Representative Takenouchi Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the committees,

I strongly support bill SB1_SD2 because it modernizes Hawaii's abortion statutes and removes antiquated restrictions and penalties. As federal protections have been eroded by recent US Supreme Court decisions, this bill helps to protect rights of choice and access to abortion care. I support the expanded access by authorizing physician assistants to provide abortion care. This will have meaningful impact for neighbor islands to provide better access and timely abortion care services.

SB1_SD2 protects our healthcare providers and payors from intrusions from harsh abortion laws in other states. This bill creates protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.

This bill is important to Hawaii's voters. Abortion rights are being challenged and threatened across the US. Protect the reproductive rights for Hawaii residents and ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*. Passing this bill will allow medical providers to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before your committees in support of SB1_SD2

Chair Della Belatti
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Chair David Tarnas
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
2:00 PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Chair(s) Belatti & Tarnas, Vice Chair(s) Takenouchi & Takayama, Members of the House Committee(s) on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, a soon to be worker, and a member of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission, testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB1 SD2**, Relating to Health Care.

Hawai‘i’s legislature needs to show the courage and foresight its predecessors showed in 1970 and not only protect, but expand the right to abortion to ALL impacted by abortion rights including women, Māhū, transgender, gender non-conforming and gender-oppressed peoples. While it is true that abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i, that right is not equally enjoyed by working class people, people who live in rural areas or on islands without easily accessible clinics, and for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Indigenous people and people of color who already experience significant health disparities.

Healthcare is a basic human right, and that means abortion is a basic human right by extension. We must never stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it. Please **PASS Senate Bill 1 SD2** out of your committees and remove unnecessary barriers to abortion. We need accessible and equitable healthcare for all!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 6:16:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Shimizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB1 SD2.

We need to ensure that all persons' reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened.

SB1 SD2 will modernize our abortion statutes and remove antiquated restrictions and penalties. It protects the rights of choice and access to abortion care and will also authorize physician assistants, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.

SB1 SD2 will ensure that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely without fear of overreach from other states and creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB1 SD2.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:20:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha/ it is essential for all people's emotional and physical health to support this bill.

Mahalo/ Elizabeth Hansen: Hakalau HI 96710

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:13:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Healthcare is a human right for all genders

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:23:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Kearns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a family physician practicing on Maui and Molokai and I also provided maternity care for 25 years on the mainland.

This bill is vital to increase access to abortion, and to protect providers from being criminalized for providing healthcare. Women and providers can be trusted to make decisions together as to whether a pregnancy is continued. Thank you for putting this bill forward. Strongly in favor.

In my office I frequently see moms coming in overwhelmed with the stresses of child care and staying afloat economically while keeping themselves and their existing children healthy, I cringe at the thought of an unwanted pregnancy occurring and the woman not being presented with options. In this case, having to continue a pregnancy benefits no one, especially if the family is already struggling.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kearns, MD, FAAFP

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:30:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Steiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an important bill which I hope the committees will pass. Mahalo.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:47:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am an OBGYN in Hawai'i and have been in practice for 5 years. The access to abortion care is vital for the wellbeing of families, and in reducing pregnancy-related illness and death.

I am in strong support of SB1 SD2. Please pass this bill to protect safe abortion access in Hawai'i. It is important for our patients and their families as well as our abortion providers.

Sincerely,

Sara C. Harris, MD

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:03:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1. Please do the right thing and pass it.

Respectfully,

Joan Rich

Kaimuki

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:08:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Pozin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why should Hi Lawmakers have rights over women's body, and over women's reproductive choices? Why would the health of the a non human fetus. be more important than the health of the mother? Any lawmaker who votes against Women's Right to chose is voting againt their civil liberties. We are wathing how you vote.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:16:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Ide	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women have the right to choose. I'm not necessarily pro abortion. I'm for it's my body!!! It's women'a body!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:26:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Wayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I enthusiastically support this bill, which enhances abortion protections for medical personnel and patients in our state in light of recent events. We need more medical support for abortions on the neighbor islands, and we need protections on every island for those who perform abortions to be sure they are not inappropriately criminalized by laws in other states. Please pass this bill to sustain Hawaii's leadership in this legislative area.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:27:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimi Murphy Ide-Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my strong support for this measure.

The day that Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization was handed down by SCOTUS was an incredibly dark day, not only for women around the country but also for the immediately loss of faith in the highest court in the land. It became clear that the courts would not save women's rights. They will not uphold bodily autonomy and they will not protect providers from vicious and unwarranted attacks.

In pushing this back to the states, it has been left to the individual legislatures to stand for women's rights.

SB1, SD 2 is exactly what we need in this moment to enshrine our existing rights to reproductive healthcare and to protect our doctors and medical providers.

The reasons for seeking an abortion is NOBODY'S business but that individual's and no one should interfere with that.

Recent surveys have shown that 84% of Hawaii voters believe it is important that lawmakers ensure that our current rights are protected and 79% believe that all people should be able to make their own decisions about their own bodies (*See Ward Research 2023*). SB 1, SD 2 will put these beliefs into practice.

As a women, a Catholic, a legal practitioner, and a very concerned citizen, I respectfully ask that the Committees pass this measure and take a stand for pregnant persons and medical providers in our state.

Thank you.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:32:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Musbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I will always vigorously defend women's right to choose.

I support access to safe and legal abortion for any person in need.

I will always vigorously oppose all efforts to restrict abortion

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:37:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one should be able to dictate what someone else does with their body.

I totally support Pro Choice

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:38:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Heimerdinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support retuning Hawaii to the Roe era and protecting a pregnant person's right to choose and medical providers from unnecessary and malicious attacks!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:56:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support SB1 because:

- SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care
- SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to helps address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands, to assure better access and prompt abortion care services.
- SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.
- It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under *Roe v Wade*, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

To: Hawaii State House Committees on Health and Homelessness and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Laurie Temple

Hearing Date/Time/Room: Wed., March 15, 2:00 pm, Room 325

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1, S.D. 2, Relating to Health Care

Dear Chairs Belatti and Tarnas and members of the Committees,

I write in strong support of S.B. 1, S.D. 2. Everyone should have the right to make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own moral and religious beliefs without government interference.

Access to family planning and a full range of reproductive health services enhances an individual's reproductive choices—which leads to improvements in women's health care and economic security. The ability to control when to start a family has been linked to significant increases in women's wages and increased likelihood of educational attainment.

It is imperative that Hawaii formalize protection to access to abortion services as states across the country seek to criminalize abortion and those who provide care. Protecting access to abortion necessitates protecting our current healthcare and abortion care workforce as well as protecting every individual's right to safe and legal reproductive health care.

Thank you for your support for this important bill.

Sincerely,
Laurie Temple

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:16:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support SB1 because:

It is critical to do all we can to ensure that all persons’ reproductive rights – including the right to abortion care – are strengthened to be at least as strong as they were under Roe v Wade, and to guarantee that our medical providers are able to deliver care safely and without fear of overreach from other states.

-SB1 helps modernize our abortion statutes, removes antiquated restrictions and penalties, and protect rights of choice and access to abortion care.

-SB 1 authorizes physician assistants to help address our shortage of abortion providers, particularly on neighbor islands.

-SB1 creates the protections we need to prevent adverse legal actions against our providers and patients in Hawaii, from other states who seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:18:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB1 SD2 relating to health care.

Please pass SB1 SD2 to protect the right to reproductive autonomy and the provision of such health care services in our state.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:31:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suha Patel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of protecting the right to abortion access in the state of Hawaii and to provider protection against litigation from out of state for abortion services legally provided in the state of Hawaii. Abortion services are essential medical services for important reasons - birth control is not perfect, many medical/pregnancy complications put women at risk for major morbidity/mortality in pregnancy and childbirth. The decision to terminate pregnancy should be the choice of the woman after counseling with a trained medical professional. Punishing/threatening providers with litigation in certain states is already having a chilling affect on women's health services and putting women at risk for severe complications or mortality/death due to pregnancy not by their own choice.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:33:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Peach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in a support of SB 1 because I believe in the protection of abortion access and the protection of abortion providers. Abortion is healthcare and women should be afforded bodily autonomy.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:39:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozlyn Calderon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Belatti & Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takenouchi & Takayama,

My name is Rozlyn Calderon, I am the regional field organizer for Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates Hawai'i, I write in my personal capacity in strong support of SB1.

Since the fall of Roe v. Wade last June, I have had hundreds of conversations with people across Hawai'i that are horrified with our current reality post Roe. Older generations with a pit in their stomach at the realization that people of reproductive age in the year 2023 have *less rights* than they did in the 70's. Young folks confused and angry that lawmakers think they should be deciding our futures.

SB1 will ensure that Hawai'i continues to be a leader in reproductive rights, at a time when overzealous prosecutors and lawmakers in hostile states are pursuing laws that target access states like Hawai'i. It will shield our small but mighty group of abortion providers from out of state legal attacks. It will insert gender inclusive language to ensure trans and non-binary people can utilize this essential form of health care. It will continue to affirm access for those most vulnerable, youth and communities distant from health care. SB1 will also allow physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care. This is critical as we have a provider shortage in Hawai'i and many barriers to access abortion. This has the potential to expand abortion access on sister islands that may have more PA's working!

Lastly, in an effort to protect our telehealth data, this will modernize our current abortion statues. As technology has advanced - we must as well. I also want to note that we have already seen states on the continent use Google search history to prosecute those seeking abortion care. Our data must be protected!

Please support SB1.

-Rozlyn Calderon

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:48:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Alyssa Regan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a healthcare provider I am horrified at the state of abortion rights across the country and am so thankful to live somewhere with a long track record of protecting women's rights. I am looking forward continuing to provide care to our community in a way that supports all of us.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:52:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1. Now that Roe v Wade has been overturned, I want to ensure that our daughters and granddaughters enjoy the same rights that I have.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way

Honolulu HI 96816

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 1:24:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this as an individual in support for a woman's right to choose and to have access to abortions and abortion providers. It is a human right to make the choice freely what happens to her body. It is time to rise against historical and structural inequalities that prevent women from the right to choose or to have access to abortion rights. Women should not have to defend or explain their reasonings for an abortion. Reproductive rights are essential for human rights. Abortion bans violate a woman's human rights, perpetuate violence, violate privacy, and marginalize communities, specifically minority communities.

Allowing access to healthcare providers that perform abortions is essential to our communities. To provide little to no access to health care providers practicing abortion aids in health disparities and reinforces negative health outcomes. Hawaii is a minority majority run state and native populations continue to face harsh realities and disproportionate access to healthcare. It is critical that all communities have access to providers that allow for safe, legal reproductive care.

Governments in support of abortions and access to abortions trust in their communities and women to know what is best for their bodies, their physical health, their mental health and their lives.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 1:34:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Takahashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on SB1, SD2. I support this measure.

March 15, 2023

To: House Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committees

From: Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG

Re: SB1 SD2 – Relating to Health Care

Position: Strongly Support

As an Obstetrician/Gynecologist who has practiced in Hawaii for 30-plus years - I have firsthand knowledge of the importance of access to abortion care in promoting the health and wellbeing of Hawaii's women and families, as well as in reducing pregnancy-related illness and death.

SB1 SD2 provides critical and timely protections to prevent legal actions against Hawaii's healthcare providers and patients from other states that seek to impose their punitive abortion laws on abortion care legally provided in Hawaii.

Lawmakers in other states have threatened to introduce bills to penalize abortion care provided in Hawaii via threats of civil lawsuits, criminal prosecution, and disciplinary action against healthcare providers for performing lawful abortion services in Hawaii. Lawmakers in these states have even threatened patients who may travel to other states such as Hawaii and have care provided there, with criminal prosecution.

SB1 SD2 reinforces that such laws by other states are contrary to Hawaii's public policy and the state constitutional right of privacy in Hawaii.

Access to abortion care is a part of Women's Healthcare excellence. I have cared for pregnant tourists who travel to Hawaii as well as thousands of pregnant Hawaii residents who unfortunately have serious and sometimes life-threatening pregnancy complications such as very early rupture of membranes leading to chorioamnionitis and life-threatening sepsis, patients near death with life-threatening bleeding, those who were desperate to have an abortion but could not afford it and tried to accomplish this outside our medical system resulting in life-threatening injury/infection, and many other serious pregnancy complications requiring immediate intervention to save lives.

I am grateful that we have so far been able to appropriately care for the many pregnancy complications that can arise to save lives and prevent permanent injury - however I am very concerned that other states may now hamper Hawaii's ability to continue to provide complete and excellent Women's Healthcare which includes access to abortion care.

I strongly urge you to pass SB1 SD2.

Mahalo for supporting the health of Hawaii's Women and Families.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:15:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:51:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am fully opposing SB1 SD2. More access to abortion will be less civilians in hawaii. Hawaii is already depleting. 14,500 people left hawaii. Does any politician care? And why less experience rushed to do abortion, really? Are we that desperate to get rid of hawaiians and human beings? That's our priority and what can fix hawaii? You serve us WE THE PEOPLE do what's right for man kind and get your priority straight. You swore an oath to the constitution and must protect every citizen, as quoted. "Every Person has a right to life and persuit of happiness". Resign if you dont want to honor your oath!!!!

Health and Human Services Committee

Rep. Belatti, Chair Rep. Takenouchi, V.C.

Committee Members: Rep. Amato, Ilagan, Kobayashi, Mizuno, Nishimoto and Garcia

Judiciary & Hawaii Affairs Committee

Rep. Tarnas, Chair Rep. Takayama V.C.

Committee Members: Rep. Ganaden, Hashimoto, Holt, Ichiyama, Ilagan, Kong, Mizuno and Souza

Hearing Wed. March 15th. 2023 2pm

Re: SB1 SD2 Abortion; Physician Assistants; Consent by Minors; Reproductive Health Care Services; Disclosures; Subpoenas; Licensing Authorities; Disciplinary Action; Investigations; Proceedings,

Please note that I stand in strong opposition to this bill.

What ever happened to Safe, Legal and Rare?

Safe? Just a few years ago we approved APRN's to perform abortions and now we want to add licensed physician assistants to that list AND at the same time removing the safe guard of requiring that an abortion be performed in a licensed hospital, an approved clinic or office of a physician or osteopathic physician ...

Women's privacy rights? everyone has the right to privacy, not just women and it should be respected by all. However, when that privacy is used to protect, to keep secret the termination of innocent human life, doesn't that then becomes a cover-up? Harsh yes, but it is what it is if you take into consider the following:

- The unborn child is not part of the mother's body but is a separate human being within the woman in the earliest stage of life. In these earliest stages of life, the child needs two things from the mother: **nutrition** and **protection** and if left alone the child will develop into a healthy viable child.

Of-course, if you intestinally remove the fetus/child from the mothers body too early then yes, the child will mostly likely not survive aka nonviable.

In these cases has any consideration been given to "Neonatal Intensive Care Units" located within hospitals?

In the last senate hearing there was testimony submitted by a physician from Kaneohe who brought up, not only the "Neonatal Intensive Care Unit" stated above, but also the possible donations of the embryo to "in vitro fertilization clinics" I thought what a great idea! an option to help a man and woman who want but are unable to have a child and an unwanted child who needs loving parents and a home.

We have become so callus in our view of the unborn child regardless of his/her age. This is not just a Religious thing, killing babies in abortion is wrong ... it's Science [website](#). Many Doctors/Surgeons/Scientist appear to recognize the fetus as a living human child and capable of feeling pain and has for years.

→ The idea of redefining "medical care and services" so that a minor may consent to receive, without any other person's consent, surgery or any treatment to induce abortion ... this is affront to the rights of parents/guardians! I find this deplorable and encourage you to remove this.

As for all the other complex issues with other state requirements, laws etc. this has gotten so expansive and should to be removed and a separate bill created to address this very complex in-depth issue. It does not belong here.

So in closing I ask that you please give all these issues serious thought and stop it from moving any further.

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:19:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose SB1 SD2.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:37:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:43:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice guggino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Expanding health care providers to the list of abortionists may harm patients. We are heading down the slippery slope by allowing those procedures that are in fact surgical to be done by mid-level providers, creating patient safety concerns and significant scope of practice issues.

1. As Planned Parenthood and their allies decry "more access", no one is asking why doctors continue to decline doing abortions. Shouldn't someone be asking WHY medical professionals continue to say no? In 2021, they added Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to the list. Will we be back every year adding more medical professionals?
2. Hawaii is already on the list of states that promote abortion. Why is this a priority in a time where people are struggling just to make ends meet?

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:41:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carm Akim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill could create a problem with the "Full Faith and Credit" clause of the US Constitution. The rest of SB1 is apparently an attempt to set Hawaii apart from other states in our union that have legislated restrictions on abortion following the Dobbs decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. Those other states have created situations where an abortion provider can end up with a damages judgement against him or her for the services provided in performing the abortion. SB1 states that the judgment will not be enforceable in Hawaii. However, Section 1 of Article IV to the United States Constitution includes the "Full Faith and Credit" clause which states: "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial proceedings of every other State." Section 2 of that Article provides that "The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to the Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several states." SB1 appears to raise constitutionality provisions, which will be resolved through lengthy and expensive court proceedings where this legislature can better spend those funds actually helping the citizens of this state rather than setting up fights with citizens of other states. Please VOTE NO to this bill

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:12:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 1.

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
& COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: SB1, SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Allows licensed physician assistants to perform certain abortions. Repeals the requirement that abortions be performed at certain locations. Clarifies that the State shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant person's right to choose to (1) obtain an abortion or (2) if necessary to protect the life or health of the patient terminate the pregnancy. Defines "abortion" and "nonviable fetus". Prohibits a covered entity from disclosing information relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state or interstate proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State. Prohibits agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance of out-of-state or interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the State from taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services. Requires the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State or is made under Article IV, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution. Enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application. Prohibits the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care services. Clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of certain services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action. Prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services. Amends the definition of "medical care and services" so that a minor may... (see document for full description) (SD2)

FOR HEARING ON Wednesday, March 15, 2023

FROM:

Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205
Kane'ohe, HI, 96744
Tel. 808.247.7942

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

SUMMARY

Regarding abortion: there's a way to reconcile the pro-choice and pro-life positions. Here are two rights which can both be achieved together. (1) A woman has a right to "control her own body" by terminating her pregnancy at any time. (2) An unborn baby has a right to live; therefore mother and her helpers have a duty to use all reasonable methods to protect baby's life and health during the process of terminating the pregnancy. Killing the baby should not be allowed as the method for ending a pregnancy, unless necessary for a woman exercising self-defense against a pregnancy that is killing her. It is both factually incorrect and morally wrong to assume that killing the embryo or fetus is the method that must or should automatically be used for a woman who chooses early termination of her pregnancy.

It is already standard medical care that babies born prematurely are taken to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where their lives are saved. If mom chooses to end pregnancy, early birth can be induced medically by pill or injection, or surgically by Caesarean section; then use NICU. At earliest stages, use procedures from in vitro fertilization clinics to transfer zygote or embryo from a woman who chooses to end her pregnancy to a woman who is eager to become pregnant but biologically unable or personally unwilling to do it through sexual intercourse.

There are various methods currently used to kill an embryo or fetus to begin an abortion: pills which can be purchased in pharmacies and used at home or in clinics to kill it quietly and then expel it; dismemberment inside the uterus followed by using suction or forceps to remove the pieces; etc. All such methods are killing with malice aforethought, also known as murder. The person who orders a murder or pays to hire a murderer (the mother) is equally as guilty as the person who actually does the killing (doctor, nurse). A clinic or hospital which knowingly allows its facilities to be used for murder is an accomplice in the crime.

Should the State of Hawaii have a law which renders unenforceable the laws of other states which prohibit abortions, and/or demand extradition of women and/or their helpers who order or perform abortions? The U.S. Constitution Article IV, Section 1 says "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof." Therefore it would be inadvisable, and probably unconstitutional, for Hawaii to pass such a law making other states' laws unenforceable. Doing so would undoubtedly result in protracted and very expensive litigation. Of course the "Full Faith and Credit" clause works in both directions. Just as Hawaii might not be allowed to override or circumvent the abortion laws of other states, so also those other states might not be allowed to override or circumvent the Hawaii law that this legislature is considering for enactment. Just imagine the costs of litigation as numerous pairs of states wage war against each other in court; while doctors, nurses, hospitals, and pregnant women by the millions embark on class-action lawsuits for damages -- lawyers will prosper greatly at taxpayer expense!

DISCUSSION

Let's consider the various stages of pregnancy regarding when human life begins; and the timing of an abortion; and selection of a method for performing it in a way that protects baby's life:

Definitions:

"Abortion" is the termination of a pregnancy at any time before the baby is born either by vaginal delivery or by full-term surgical removal (Cesarean section).

"Pregnancy" begins when a blastocyst is implanted into the lining of the uterus, and ends when the fetus is born or aborted. Biology lesson about "pregnancy": When an egg has passed from a woman's ovary into a fallopian tube it may become fertilized by a sperm and is then called a zygote during its passage through the tube. Note that the egg was already fertilized during its passage through the fallopian tube; that fertilization, also called "conception", is what some religions say marks the beginning of human life. The zygote continues on its journey through the tube into the uterus where it repeatedly divides creating a hollow ball of cells called a blastocyst. The blastocyst then becomes implanted in the lining of a woman's uterus where it is called an embryo and the woman can now be called "pregnant." After 9 more weeks of growth and organ development it is called a fetus. Terminology provided here is based on information provided by the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic.

Adopting those definitions allows us to set aside several much-discussed types of contraception before pregnancy as irrelevant to the issue of abortion. But see a section at the end of this testimony: "When does human life begin so that an unborn baby has rights? Some technicalities regarding contraception vs. abortion"

For decades there has been great controversy and strident language between pro-life and pro-choice partisans on the issue of abortion. The Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision 50 years ago guaranteed women a right to an abortion subject to various levels of federal and state regulation depending on which trimester a pregnancy was in. The Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision by the Supreme Court in 2022 overturned Roe as having been wrongly decided, and ruled that each state can decide the matter for itself, or Congress can enact a nationwide law.

What makes this controversy pro-life vs. pro-choice so strident is the nearly universal assumption that there is no middle ground or compromise possible.

But in fact it is possible for both pro-life and pro-choice positions to win. The difficulties arise because both sides are assuming that abortion means killing the baby -- embryo or fetus -- even the choice of words is controversial.

Hospitals today have NICUs -- Neonatal Intensive Care Units. Thousands of babies born prematurely are taken to these specialized places where they are given all the medical tests and treatments they need to survive. Some babies born only halfway through a normal gestation period, 4-5 months, are saved. Anxious and loving parents come visit them every day to have an extended finger grasped by their tiny baby, or get their shirt drooled on. Yes, it's very expensive. But how much is a human life worth, especially if it's your own child's?

A pro-choice woman/girl who wants to "control her own body" and get rid of an unwanted pregnancy anytime during its final several months can do so without killing her unborn baby. Get the fetus delivered out of mother's body into a NICU by having the mother choose to use methods already being used when mother's life is endangered by pregnancy. A choice to cause birth early can be achieved either medically with pills or shots, or surgically by Caesarean section. Of course this would be expensive, and painful, to the mother. But it's her choice, and many choices in life are expensive and painful. There might be occasions when such procedures cannot be used for valid medical reasons related to either the mother's or baby's health. In that case, mother simply cannot exercise that choice. However, neither mother nor her medical helpers should be allowed to murder the baby merely because mother doesn't want the inconvenience and cost of raising the child, or doesn't want the pain or cost of surgically or medically induced early birth. I would choose to fly my own airplane to Paris to see how the repair of Notre Dame is coming along and dine at "Le Souffle" restaurant, but I have neither the skill nor money to exercise that choice.

Even at the earliest stages of pregnancy, there are ways to end it without killing the embryo. The techniques for doing that are improving constantly as we see in numerous advertisements for "in vitro" fertilization clinics. A couple want to make a baby but either the man or the woman has a problem that prevents them from making a baby in the usual way. The woman's egg and the man's sperm (or donations of one or the other from outsiders) are mixed in a petrie dish to cause fertilization, and then the organism (zygote, blastocyst, or embryo) is implanted into the appropriate place in the woman. In a different sort of procedure, the organism can be implanted into the body of a volunteer mother who carries the pregnancy to term as a surrogate for the woman who is unable to achieve or continue a pregnancy. Such techniques are widely used already to help couples who want to make a baby; and the same techniques could be used to harvest an unborn baby from a woman who chooses to end her pregnancy during its early stages and donate it to a woman or couple who eagerly want it. Of course this would be expensive, and painful, to the woman who chooses to end her pregnancy. But it's her choice, and many choices in life are expensive and painful. There might be occasions when such procedures cannot be used for valid medical reasons related to either the mother's or baby's health. In that case, mother simply cannot exercise that choice. However, neither mother nor her medical helpers should be allowed to murder the baby merely because mother doesn't want the inconvenience and cost of raising the child, or doesn't want the pain or cost of undergoing the procedures necessary to save the baby's life.

I believe it is clear that the pro-choice position is NOT primarily based on a claim that a woman has "the right to control my own body." Early in a pregnancy she might not even be feeling any symptoms of it. She might not know she is pregnant until she misses a couple periods and sees the wrong color on a urine test strip. It's not her body that worries her. It's the loss of control over her social life and her money. Late in her pregnancy she will "show"; and after the baby is born she must stay home to take care of it. Men won't date her; she'll have to give up college and a career; she'll be spending many thousands of dollars every year for the next 20 years to raise her child: food, diapers, doctor bills, baby sitters, clothes, school supplies, college tuition.

The pregnant girl/woman is in the same position as a middle-aged adult stuck with taking care of an elderly parent with dementia who has medical problems that are costing lots of money, causing chaos and unhappiness in the family's homelife, and eroding what "should" be an inheritance. The easy solution in both situations is to get rid of the inconvenient person. Either kill them yourself or hire a killer. Both the actual killer (doctor, nurse, back-alley abortionist), and the person who recruited and paid the killer (Mom) are guilty of murder -- especially in view of the fact that there are ways to save the baby's life during the process of terminating the pregnancy. Medical science is making rapid advances in taking care of premature babies. As time goes by it will become possible to do so in a NICU at shorter and shorter periods of gestation.

Killing an elderly adult is very hard to get away with, because they are well known and people will notice if they suddenly disappear. But in some cultures it is/was (allegedly) a customarily accepted practice to send grandma on a final journey by putting her on a canoe or ice floe and sending her out to sea.

Killing an unborn baby is easy -- it's quite possible that nobody knows the woman is pregnant -- she can have a "medical" abortion privately, at home, by taking some pills that come in the mail or buying them at the drugstore; or a surgical abortion where HIPAA privacy laws keep the secret for her. And even if friends and neighbors know about it, abortion happens so often that it has become socially acceptable. Many people today complain about gun violence with multiple victims; but those numbers are very small compared with the enormous number of unborn babies murdered lawfully by abortion every day. I hope our legislature will not become an accomplice in these mass murders.

Let's be clear. Killing an unborn baby should be illegal except in self-defense when the pregnancy is actually killing its mother and there's no way to remove the baby that is safe for both mother and baby. "Killing its mother" should be defined as "physical", not merely the easily-stretched "psychological." The "balance of harms" test regards saving a life as more

important than alleviating mental distress to mother from several months of constant reminder of the trauma that produced the baby growing inside her. If a pregnancy results from rape or incest, those are not reasons for killing the innocent baby but the legislature might specify that those factors justify the charity of government payment for the procedures needed to protect baby. Legislators considering granting "personhood" status to "Mother Earth" or to various rivers, mountains, etc. should consider whether geological features are "persons" but unborn human babies are not persons and have no inherent right to exist.

When does human life begin so that an unborn baby has rights? Some technicalities regarding contraception vs. abortion

The Roman Catholic Pope Paul VI in his encyclical "Humanae Vitae" (25 July 1968) stated the church's position that life begins at the moment of conception, when an egg has been fertilized by a sperm. This would mean that human life has begun while a fertilized egg (zygote) is still in the fallopian tube passing from the ovary to the uterus, and several days before implantation into the uterus. Thus we might conclude that deliberate use of any medication which would block implantation, for the purpose of preventing a pregnancy, would be murder or attempted murder if in fact a fertilized egg (either zygote or blastocyst) was present in the uterus at that time.

"Humanae Vitae" went a step further by stating that every act of sexual intercourse must remain open to the transmission of life, meaning that contraception by barrier methods such as condoms or diaphragms must also be prohibited. The only acceptable way to avoid pregnancy while still enjoying vaginal sex would be the "rhythm method" consisting of restricting such an encounter to happen at a time in a woman's menstrual cycle when an egg is not yet present in the fallopian tube and also at a time when a sperm's lifespan will end before an egg has arrived in the tube. Accurate timing of such things is difficult if not impossible, and also limits the spontaneity which may be essential to intimacy and enjoyment; for example,

accuracy might require a woman to often measure her temperature during 2-3 weeks every month to judge whether and when ovulation has occurred, and to faithfully continue doing so for decades until menopause.

Fortunately our U.S. Constitution prohibits us from enacting laws that would constitute an "establishment of religion." Thus legislators need not obey the views of the Catholic Church, although legislators might consider them for advice when consulting their consciences while deciding how to vote. Religions besides Roman Catholic or other Christian, including Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Muslim should also be considered because there are a wide variety and large number of adherents who are citizens and residents of Hawaii, and legislators feel obligated to represent the views of their constituents.

The "morning after pill" poses a dilemma about whether it is contraception or abortion. This is a pill which a woman might take soon after having unprotected sex. Does the pill merely prevent implantation? Or does it cause ejection of an egg within a day or two after it has already been implanted? Ejection would actually be abortion, although it might not be detectable as an ejection because of the extremely small amount of material. Perhaps scientists can tell us definitively whether the "morning after pill" works only to prevent implantation and is impossible to cause an ejection. However, those who believe human life exists at the moment of conception will say it does not matter whether the "morning after pill" merely prevents implantation or actually causes ejection -- because either way, life already began when the sperm fertilized the egg inside the fallopian tube even before it arrived into the uterus.

TESTIMONY to the HOUSE COMMITTEES on Health & Homelessness and Judiciary
& Hawaiian Affairs

SB1 S.D.2 Relating to Health Care

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 1:10 pm
State Capitol Conference Room 325 via Videoconference

Submitted in **STRONG OPPOSITION** by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairs Belatti and Tarnas and Vices Chairs Takenouchi and Takayama and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose to SB1 S.D.2 for several reasons:

- a. Proposed section 453-16 (G) appears to violate Article IV of the US Constitution: “Full faith and credit shall be given in each of those States to the records, acts, and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State.” When the previous governor, Governor Ige, promulgated Executive Order 22-5 on October 11, 2022 he outlined his intention to violate the provisions of Article IV of the US Constitution and therefore his intentions should never be put into practice.
- b. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to life to all human beings. The fetus that are “terminated” are unique (not the mother’s body) living human beings according to their own DNA and obvious when looking at an ultrasound. They deserve equal protection under the law. We need to stop classifying human beings as only property/slaves to another human being. Slavery was abolished in our country. IVF doctors only put **living zygotes (babies)** into a mother’s womb. They are living human beings.
- c. Centuries ago it was acknowledged that it was unethical to kill a baby in the womb. Based on this draft bill, it appears many of Hawaii’s doctors and legislators/politicians ignore truth respecting pregnancy that they don’t like. According to the earliest surviving copy of the Hippocratic Oath that doctors were once required to take:

“Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course. **Similarly I will not give to a woman a [pessary](#) to cause abortion.** ... Now if I carry out this oath, and break it not, may I gain for ever reputation among all men for my life and for my art; but if I break it and forswear myself, may the opposite befall me.”

- d. The definition of non-viable fetus is still not adequately clear. According to [healthline](#), “A baby born between 20 and 26 weeks is a considered to be periviable, or born during the window when a fetus has a chance of surviving outside the womb.” **Based on this fact and to provide clarity,**

the bill should be amended to state: No abortion may be performed for fetuses that are 20 weeks or older.

- e. The bill protects abortionists who have broken the law in other states. However, SB1 S.D.2 as currently written does not provide sufficient protections for hospitals, pharmacies, and medical staff that cannot ethically or morally take the life of a living human baby either through pills, devices or surgical abortions. If passed, amend SB1 S.D.2 to the effect: **“No hospital, medical office, pharmacy, or staff in those facilities will be required to participate, refer for abortions, or prescribe/distribute or refer for abortifacients or contraceptives nor shall those individuals be liable or lose their job, be demoted, lose salary or suffer any loss of status as a result of their refusal.**
- f. Revert to the term pregnant female or woman instead of the woke terminology “pregnant person”. Currently only biological women can be pregnant. You have a definition for Person in the bill which makes the term “pregnant person” nonsense. Please explain: pregnant partnership, pregnant joint venture, pregnant corporation, pregnant association, pregnant business, pregnant trust, pregnant organized group or pregnant legal entity or any pregnant combination thereof.
- g. Hawaii has age of consent laws affecting minors 15 and under to protect them from abuse. If a minor is in a situation that consent is not possible, not only police but parents/guardians must be notified of the abuse. **Please clarify which minors are included in this bill.**

Our inalienable rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution come from our creator not government. Laws can't remove our rights.

Hawaiian [Queens](#) wished the best for Hawaiians and endorsed the tenets of Christianity and Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop required Protestant teachers in the school set up in her [will](#). Individuals, such as myself, who oppose SB1 S.D. 2 do so out of compassion for and well-being of mothers and their children, for the residents of our state, and especially for the souls of our politicians, judges, doctors, nurses, and the residents. Excerpts from the Protestant (King James) Bible warns:

[Matthew 25:40](#) - And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

[Luke 17:2](#) - It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

[Romans 12:19](#) - Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Do not pass SB1 S.D. 2. If passed, include my proposed amendments. Please vote NO.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:06:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1 fails to provide protection for the rights of the unborn. Vote NO on SB1 or any variation thereof.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:06:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlene Sagapolutele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm submitting testimony in opposition.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:26:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robyn Camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose abortion. Please consider an alternative to address the needs of Hawaii.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:27:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Kanada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill as it expands abortion in Hawaii and does five things:

PART I - Allows licensed physician assistants to perform abortions. Repeals the requirement that abortions, including aspiration abortions performed by advance practice registered nurses, be performed at certain locations. Clarifies that a patient has the right to choose to obtain an abortion, or to terminate a pregnancy if the termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the patient, and the State shall not deny or interfere with these rights. Defines "abortion" and "nonviable fetus".

Part II - Prohibits a covered entity from disclosing communication or information relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the issuance of a subpoena in connection with an out-of-state proceeding relating to reproductive health care services legally performed in the State. Prohibits agencies from providing information or expending resources in the furtherance of interstate investigations or proceedings relating to reproductive health care services. Prohibits the State from penalizing, prosecuting, or otherwise taking adverse action based on pregnancy outcomes or aiding or assisting a pregnant individual with accessing reproductive health care services. Requires the Governor to deny any demand for surrender of a person charged with a crime involving reproductive health care services unless the conduct constitutes a crime in the State. Enumerates laws contrary to public policy and prohibits their application as rules of decision in the courts. Prohibits the issuance of a summons for persons to testify in another state with regard to lawful reproductive health care services.

Part III - Clarifies under various licensing statutes that the provision or assistance in receipt or provision of medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, counseling, or referral services related to the human reproductive system cannot form a basis for disciplinary action.

Part IV - Prohibits the enforcement of a judgment or order arising from a foreign penal civil action or other penal law with respect to reproductive health care services.

Part V – Amends the definition of "medical care and services" that a minor may consent to receive without any other person's consent to include surgery and any treatment to induce abortion.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:03:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill. Lower medical requirements may bring harm to women. I am against abortion not because i am against women's rights but because i think the fetus has rights too and is the more vulnerable. The State legislature should be working on other more important issue of homeless and health care for all and a better economy for our people.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:01:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Abbey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to our honorable Legislators,

Please do not pass this bill, particularly as it is written.

It is horrifying to consider anyone other than a skilled surgeon/doctor/advanced nurse performing surgery/medical procedures on women. Abortion is not a priority issue in this state as it is fairly unrestricted here. A minor should certainly not be allowed to have a surgical procedure including abortion without notification of their parent/guardian who are responsible for their care and wellbeing until adulthood. We should not be drawn in to other states' abortion issues. Worst case scenario--we do not want to become a Hawaiian abortion destination.

The rest of this bill is dangerously vague in its intentions, possibly opening our state to unintended consequences to health care with liability and financial responsibility but most importantly to the health and well being of Hawaii's people.

We have many more critical issues including homelessness, crime, safety, etc. in our Aloha State crying out for your attention.

Mahalo, Esther Abbey

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:55:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susana Kwock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support human life and vote no on this bill. Thank you.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:06:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Santarelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Expanding health care providers to the list of abortionists may harm patients. Downgrading qualifications for abortion is not safe for the patient. Abortion is not a simple procedure it requires a vast knowledge of medical procedures that deal with complex issues in the women's body. Any unintended consequences to the patient are serious and can cause pain, side effects and even death. Downgrading qualifications for this serious procedure will open up a Pandora's box of lawsuits for these providers and the facility they operate in. I ask you to consider all the ramifications of this bill and vote NO.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:21:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANSON REGO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Expanding health care providers to the list of abortionists may harm patient.

Against Amends the definition of "medical care and services" that a minor may consent to receive without any other person's consent to include surgery and any treatment to induce abortion. A minor should not have that authority w/o consulting parents

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 2:10:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celeste Frelot	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

I vote no on SB1 SD2, why? Because every child is a gift from God born or unborn.

thank you,

Anonymous

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:39:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill which expands the opportunity to perform abortions on underaged teens without parental consent, allows less qualified clinicians to do the procedure and also let's the abortions to be performed at facilities that may be questionable! This just expands the ease of pimps to take trafficked teens to have their abortions! This bill is encouraging underage prostitution to be rampant in Hawaii!

I oppose this bill.

Loree Searcy

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:02:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1 and SD 2 cause it's unsafe and unconstitutional. I am a shame to say I am from Hawaii. Where is the Aloha Spirit? What is your agenda for this bill? It's a cruel bill. The language is beyond anything I can ever imagine. Why do have to change what is already there? You can be sure there will be lawsuits that will cost thousands of unnecessary dollars. And how can you be so concern about abortion rights when our economy is going down hill. Gas and food prices are increasing and the homeless crisis is getting worse. Your priorities are in the wrong place. Abortion rights is far from our minds. I pray you think twice about passing this bill.

Mahalo

A caring grandmother

Alberta Lono

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:53:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Rorie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Representative:

Please oppose SB1 Relating to Health Care.

Why? For the safety of patients and protection of clinicians.

Reasons:

- Performing a medical procedure in an unlicensed facility that is not required to meet health/government requirements subjects patients and clinicians to possible injury, death, and subsequent litigation.
- Physician assistants (PA's) are required to receive only general medicine education/training. PA's must work interdependently with physicians per scope of practice. Training not required by law and without Hospital admission privileges for medical emergencies.
- There is no definition of "certain" abortions.
- Language to remove Hawaii from civil action is contrary to the Constitution.

Please vote 'No' to SB1 Relating to Health Care.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

With Aloha,

patrick rorie (Hawaii resident since 1987, tax payer, voter)

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:01:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Kenyon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'll start by saying that I cannot believe that I'm sitting here at my desk asking you to not allow a specific skill set to kill a person. That's almost like me saying I only want qualified/educated people killing people. Isn't this whole abortion thing nuts? I don't want anybody killing anybody at all. What have we come to?

Hawaii is already on the list of states that promote abortion. I don't have to like that but that's what "we" decided was the right thing to do... Why is this a priority in a time where people are struggling just to make ends meet?

Please place priorities on helping people to live... and live productive, quality lives.

Thank you very much.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:22:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Kula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives on the House Committee on Health and Homelessness and the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Concerning SB1 SD2 Relating to Healthcare.

I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

Describing abortion as reproductive healthcare seems a misnomer to me. CARE should mean valuing and working to save life. And though Hawaii legislators take pride in legalizing abortion in 1970, it happened at a time when the science available was not able to show the development of the child within a woman's womb. We now know how closely that developing fetus resembles the baby it will become, if allowed to live.

Putting that aside, actions concerning healthcare should be about providing safety along with the care. Abortions should not be considered such a safe and easy, run of the mill procedure, that merely requires a licensed physician assistant and no requirement for an appropriate location will put pregnant persons at unnecessary risk.

I respectfully urge you to vote No on this bill.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:17:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Shorba	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou,

I stand in strong opposition to SB1 SD2 and ask our State Representatives here today to **vote NO on SB1 SD2.**

Abortion harms women, not only physically, but emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. Children are to be nurtured and loved, not destroyed in the womb. As a Native Hawaiian and counselor, I am extremely concerned for the welfare of our people. Some of my clients are post-abortive and I hear first-hand the trauma that they've experienced from having undergone an abortion. Men and women suffer tremendously after experiencing an abortion, and most times in silence. They experience shame, guilt, depression, anger, and low self-esteem (just to name a few of the symptoms). It is a carefully-guarded secret, and this may be the reason why the truth about the pain/suffering after abortion is buried deep and may only be shared with a close friend.

Abortion is not healthcare when the health of the mother is worsened after abortion, and the healthy child developing in the womb is obliterated; and after the procedure, the doctor must account for every body part to ensure the woman doesn't die from an "incomplete abortion." There are times when the doctor performing the abortion may perforate the uterus of the woman during the abortion, and the woman dies from excessive bleeding if not treated right away. I have heard of many cases where women have died after an abortion, without any legal consequences placed upon the doctor or those involved for committing these terrible crimes. The language of this bill goes so far as to protect the abortion providers from any legal action against them. This bill does not aim to protect the people of Hawaii, nor does it seem concerned for the welfare of the people. This is not pono and the people of Hawaii deserve so much better than abortion! Abortion should not be an option when it is literally ripping lives apart in the womb and outside of the womb.

A much better law would offer hope, support, protections for the mothers and their unborn developing children, as well any additional counseling, support services and care that these mothers may need while they are pregnant, to give them time and the freedom to explore all life-affirming options that may perpetuate good health and a future full of hope for them and their family.

Hawaii does not need SB1 SD2 nor do we want this measure to prevail in our land of aloha. Please vote No on SB1 SD2.

Mahalo nunui for your kokua,

Lisa Shorba

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 11:08:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garner Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

Expanding abortion services allowing lesser qualified professionals, facilities, and protection is not only unnecessary but very dangerous. It does not address any serious need for our people, and is an unwelcome invitation opening the door to outside influences and situations exposing our state and people to unintended risks, liability and problems we certainly do not need.

It also violates parents' rights to be informed and involved with their children.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 1:40:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HLT-JHA Committee Chair and Members,

When did the abortion industry in America go from "safe, legal and rare" to immoral, haphazard and devil-may care? When legislatures began passing bills like SB1 SD2.

When will we stop murdering our most defenseless citizens and start respecting God's creation? That starts when this terrible, immoral conglomerate of a measure is defeated.

I urge you to subject this bill to the same fate it consigns to the youngest members of our society. Abort this monstrous measure now.

Mark White

Waipahu HI

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:40:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Hawaii already has strong abortion laws. We do not need to expand them. This is not about Healthcare. I urge you to kill this bill.

Alice Abellanida

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:29:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edna Kido	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to abortion. I believe this is morally wrong and goes against the sanctity of human life. Abortion denies the fetus life and endangers the women's life physically and mentally.

Please do not support this bill.

March 14, 2023, @ 12:00noon

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

As a registered voter in the State of Hawaii, please note that I am strongly opposed to SB1 SD2. Hawaii is known for its beauty and "Aloha" spirit. In 1970, the State of Hawaii became the first state in the nation to legalize abortion. Is this an example of the "Aloha" spirit? I don't understand why we continue to ignore the fact that children contribute to our heritage, and most importantly the "Aloha" spirit. Children are a blessing. They are our future.

I am a believer and a follower of Jesus Christ, and I strongly believe in His Word that says, "In the beginning, God created the earth and everything in it." (Genesis 1:1) I believe that "everything" includes the unborn (humans). Life begins at conception.

God's Word also says:

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

Psalm 139:13

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward."

Psalm 127:3

We the people of Hawaii, you our government leaders, who live in "the land of Aloha" must stop and think about what we're doing. It's great that you are all passionately wanting to protect the rights of women to choose. With that same passion, I ask you to strongly consider this, "What about the rights of the defenseless unborn child (human)?" Please stand up for the rights of the unborn. Please be their voice. The unborn deserve a chance to live, to grow, to be educated, to love, and become an adult who'll choose to make a difference, a good difference.

The unborn defenseless children of Hawaii are crying out to you, the legislature, to be their voice! Please consider opposing SB1 SD2.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:00:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am asking you to please not support the implementation of SB1 SD2 Relating to Healthcare. I am sad to see the day that "Right to Choose" has come to mean harming the innocent and most vulnerable while letting the aggressors go. I am not sure what our Senators meant when they passed the SB1 bill that turns Hawaii from the land of Aloha, "the life of the land is perpetuated in Righteousness", to a land where in fact robbing women their natural instinct and making them sacrifice their health and the health of the most vulnerable baby in their womb the highest goal. It betrays women and protects and serves the interest of another beneficiary who is not looking out for their best interest in the long run, a hungry industry profiting from predatory practices on desperate women and their partners by providing "healthcare" that has sucked the very essence of a mother and the offspring of the couple (parents), and taken the life of the baby in the womb through violence! How can we escape if we reject the gifts that God has given us, and discard his most precious babies, the little ones he loves!

How can we return to the "barbaric" practice of infanticide after having been enlightened through the knowledge of the truth and the development of life in the womb and the future of the amazing baby! How can we cover our eyes at the mounting evidence that the baby as early as six weeks feels pain and has every thing that is needed to grow to be like men such as "Andrea Bocelli"! Where is the lesson of History gone! How did we embrace the "culture of death" as a solution to reduce the "Unplanned" life! Have you read the book "unplanned" or watched the movie by the same name? Can we trust such establishments to do right by the most desperate of us?

Dear Leaders, Are you a God fearers? I trust your are, but regardless of your worldview, I pray you know that God brings every act to full account, I urge you to vote down this bill that harms the most vulnerable who can't speak for themselves, called "the Fetus" by those who deny these are human beings ! I am an african american man and recall at one time persons like me were also called "cattle for the slaughter"! Evil has morphed into another form and still dehumanizes another precious life created in the image of God! Please remember the least of us, and may God remember you at the time of your trouble and make you shine like the stars of heaven!

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Maaza Christos Mekuria

1420 Victoria Street, # 1604

Honolulu, HI 96822

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:18:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Liu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Going to keep it very brief: I oppose SB1 SD2 100% and as a native Hawaiian I plead with you, the legislators of my beautiful home, do the righteous and pono thing and vote NO on this bill. There is nothing good in it, only death, destruction and devastation for our precious babies and the next generation, for women, for our families and for our state. Our motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina I ka pono" says that the LIFE of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Please choose this Life for those you have been elected to watch over and protect.

Respectfully,

Jodi Liu

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:15:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
June Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preborn babies are to be protected. We were all created by God and these innocent babies should be protected like every citizen in Hawaii. Please vote NO on SB1 SD2.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:39:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. Expanding health care providers to the list of abortionists may harm patients. We are heading down the slippery slope by allowing those procedures that are in fact surgical to be done by mid-level providers, creating patient safety concerns and significant scope of practice issues.
2. Legislators would be hard pressed to name another medical procedure where the goal is for someone with a lower skill level to be in charge of your health.
3. As Planned Parenthood and their allies decry "more access", no one is asking why doctors continue to decline doing abortions. Shouldn't someone be asking WHY medical professionals continue to say no? In 2021, they added Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to the list. Will we be back every year adding more medical professionals?
4. Hawaii is already on the list of states that promote abortion. Why is this a priority in a time where people are struggling just to make ends meet?
5. The bill could create a problem with the "Full Faith and Credit" clause of the US Constitution. The rest of SB1 is apparently an attempt to set Hawaii apart from other states in our union that have legislated restrictions on abortion following the Dobbs decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. Those other states have created situations where an abortion provider can end up with a damages judgement against him or her for the services provided in performing the abortion. SB1 states that the judgment will not be enforceable in Hawaii. However, Section 1 of Article IV to the United States Constitution includes the "Full Faith and Credit" clause which states: "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial proceedings of every other State." Section 2 of that Article provides that "The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to the Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several states." SB1 appears to raise constitutionality provisions, which will be resolved through lengthy and expensive court proceedings where this legislature can better spend those funds actually helping the citizens of this state rather than setting up fights with citizens of other states.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 1:19:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs and Members of the Committees:

I do not think the average person knows how dangerous an abortion can be to a woman wanting one. When the doctor goes into the uterus, he basically cannot see exactly where his instrument is going and whether his instrument has not only killed the infant but harmed the woman as well. There are reports of having baby parts still in a woman's womb after an abortion is performed; and sometimes an abortion can render a woman fertile.

I strongly oppose this bill for several main reasons:

1. It basically turns our keiki loving Hawaii into a baby in utero killing sanctuary state.
2. The bill will basically give a medical professional who has performed an abortion almost carte blanche protection from any consequences after an abortion.
3. This bill has deleted the word "female" and replaced it with "human person." I suspect we will have men in Hawaii becoming pregnant via invitro methods and, hence, them giving birth.

For the reasons above, kill this bill.

Donna Van Osdol

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 2:32:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Harrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN practicing in the state of Hawaii, and I strongly support this bill. It protects access to a critical right, specifically the right for a person with a uterus to make their own choices regarding their reproductive health.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:24:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Orman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1 ensures Hawaii healthcare providers aren't subject to the gross overreach of other states seeking to impose their laws on our healthcare providers and protects the rights of choice and bodily autonomy for all pregnant persons.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:41:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Rabinowitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony supporting SB1 SD2 because protecting access to abortions also protects a method by which survivors of domestic violence can escape or cut ties from an abusive partner or regain confidence in their autonomy.

Reproductive health can and has been used as a tactic to control or hold power over an intimate partner in a situation involving domestic violence. Pregnancy has been associated with both an increased initiation of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), as well as the increased severity of IPV. In contrast, pregnant people who were experiencing IPV reported a reduction in abuse following an abortion.

This legislation will protect abortion access by:

- Clarifying that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- Allowing physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care
- Protecting access to telehealth abortion services
- Reinforcing young people's ability to access abortion care

Providers need to be confident that they can continue to focus on patient health and that Hawai'i will always be a safe place to do what is best for the patient. This bill will also protect abortion providers by:

- Prohibiting medical licensure boards from taking adverse action against providers who provide care that is legal in the state of Hawai'i
- Eliminating archaic provisions that threaten criminal prosecution against providers for providing safe and basic abortion care
- Limiting cooperation with other states' investigations and proceedings about the provision of abortion

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

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:55:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of this measure. Please pass this bill!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:47:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Bartlett	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Hiding medical procedures or mental health issues of minors from parents is not what Hawaii voters want. It is not what union leaders or business leaders want.

In many states the term reproductive health also covers gender affirming care which mean hormones, There are legislators in Hawaii who believe the age of consent for any medical procedure should be any age as long as the minor is working with a doctor they do not need the parental consent.

Parents are still liable for the minor until the age of 18 .

There have been no long term studies on puberty blockers and 92% of those who take them go on to take cross sex hormones. There are a lot of lawsuits from transitioners who realized they were not mature enough to make those decisions.

The DOE is planning Community Schools also called Whole School which will have a clinic in them. Planned Parenthood would like to be that clinic they are now known for gender medicine and for giving out hormones on the first or second visit. If schools house these clinics not only would abortions but also gender medicine be hidden from parents.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 2:22:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this proposed legislation.

Why is this a priority in a time where people are struggling just to make ends meet?

Abortion is not a safe medical procedure and we do not hear about the many medical and mental health problems that happen to the patient. Why is killing babies before they are birthed allowed?

Why are minors allowed to hide this procedure from their parents or guardian? You are also not holding the provider for any adverse affects or mistakes.

Once again, **NO** to SB1.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:13:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Guy Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong OPPOSITION

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:42:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Sooriyakumar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alana Sooriyakumar and I am a wife and mother and constituent of Kalihi Valley.

I have found that those in favor of this bill, are in favor of abortion and making it as easy as possible to obtain. However, many supporting abortion are also understandably unaware of the risks involved with getting an abortion both during and after due to the common advertising of its as easy as taking a pill. But there is never any mention of the life being killed, what the woman goes through i.e. labor and how much harder and riskier it is on the body to induce premature labor, or the risks to the woman in the aftermath of abortion such as placenta previa, pelvic inflammatory disease, depression, infertility, and many more. A thorough list can be found here, <https://www.hli.org/resources/risks-of-abortion/>

The abortion industry likes to tout the claim of women's rights and empowering women.

Personally, I find nothing more disempowering to women and our rights than to tell us that killing our children is the answer to our problems. Personally I'd like to see a government that builds up women and empowers them to care for their children by telling women that we are strong, capable, and can persevere through any adversity that comes our way. That when we find ourselves pregnant that that life has been given to you specifically to love, care, protect, and nurture and that we are equipped to do so. A government that supports reassuring women that they and their children will be cared for and supports the programs out there trying to stand in the gap for women and children in need versus a government who lifts up the abortion industry who only lifts up death and destruction.

Mahalo for taking the time to read and consider this testimony,

Alana Sooriyakumar

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:19:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Only 3 short months ago, we were all anticipating Christmas - the day an impoverished teen-mom's unplanned pregnancy brought forth the birth of a baby boy that would change the world forever - and now we're only 3 short weeks away from the day when a crowd would condemn that innocent boy-turned-man to death.

Although Pontius Pilate did not support the death of an innocent man, he did nothing to oppose it either - he gave in to the unjust cries of the crowd and for that, his name goes down in human history forever as a coward and as a placating, political hack (with no telling about his eternal consequences).

Abortion is the condemnation to death of an innocent life and as such, it is wrong - it is so wrong that God actually forbids it in His 5th Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill".

Today countless unborn and innocent lives are coming before you for a death penalty judgment where you will act as a modern-day Pontius Pilate; I pray for your wisdom, I pray you learn from his mistake, I pray you choose life.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:26:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Quindica	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing to oppose SB1 and SD2 relating to healthcare. Although I disagree with this bill in its entirety, ai want to bring specific emphasis to the part of this bill that allows MINORS to make life-altering decisions without consent of a parent or guardian.

From a MENTAL HEALTH standpoint there has not been nearly enough information or study done on the adverse affects of an abortion on the mental/psychological health of the person undergoing this procedure. To allow our keiki or young women from any other state to undergo this procedure without adult guidance and support is IRRESPONSIBLE. This bill is dangerous and is by no means ready to be passed by our state.

I love our State of Hawaii, I love our people and I do not want to stand silent while our state becomes a hub for murdering babies while neglecting to understand the full impact providing (or even celebrating) the "freedom" of abortion. We need to protect our keiki, both born and unborn.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:08:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Dearmin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. Murder of unborn, human babies is a sin. Reference the Bible. God's law will always trump man's law, no exceptions.
2. Expanding health care providers to the list of abortionists may harm patients. We are heading down the slippery slope by allowing those procedures that are in fact surgical to be done by mid-level providers, creating patient safety concerns and significant scope of practice issues.
3. Legislators would be hard pressed to name another medical procedure where the goal is for someone with a lower skill level to be in charge of your health.
4. As Planned Parenthood and their allies decry "more access", no one is asking why doctors continue to decline doing abortions. Shouldn't someone be asking WHY medical professionals continue to say no? In 2021, they added Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to the list. Will we be back every year adding more medical professionals?
5. Hawaii is already on the list of states that promote abortion. Why is this a priority in a time where people are struggling just to make ends meet?
6. The bill could create a problem with the "Full Faith and Credit" clause of the US Constitution. The rest of SB1 is apparently an attempt to set Hawaii apart from other states in our union that have legislated restrictions on abortion following the Dobbs decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. Those other states have created situations where an abortion provider can end up with a damages judgement against him or her for the services provided in performing the abortion. SB1 states that the judgment will not be enforceable in Hawaii. However, Section 1 of Article IV to the United States Constitution includes the "Full Faith and Credit" clause which states: "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial proceedings of every other State." Section 2 of that Article provides that "The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to the Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several states." SB1 appears to raise constitutionality provisions, which will be resolved through lengthy and expensive court proceedings where this legislature can better spend those funds actually helping the citizens of this state rather than setting up fights with citizens of other states.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:11:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nerose Iosia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Death penalty is wrong!

Abortion has become a fancy name for death and I, Nerose Iosia, strongly oppose this bill that promotes it. The death penalty is **the state-sanctioned punishment of executing an individual for a specific crime**. Passing this bill is the state saying its okay for an unborn baby to be punished and excuted for the crime of living. We have a society thats built on lies and shaky foundation. You are in your position to speak for the living and promote the welfare of the people. I hope your decision is not based off pressure but truly with sound mind reflecting on your life and how you are able to live it. No one cut off your life line, so I hope you don't do it to another.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:27:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in opposition of SB1 SD2. Abortion is not healthcare. Ending a human life at any stage is murder. It takes 2 to tango, so where are the birth father's rights? Please do not allow abortions to continue here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:31:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Schayden Gorai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Opposition

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:44:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Ruiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair & Vice Chair,

My name is Jennifer Ruiz and I am testifying in support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai'i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting who may perform abortion procedures is a burden in and of itself, but is magnified by Hawai'i's current physician shortage and geographical location as an island archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact People of Color & Indigenous--especially, Native Hawaiian. In addition, to those who are classed as poor on a social-economical group and the gender-oppressed people the hardest.

Furthermore, local residents living on neighbouring islands that don't have any easy access to healthcare services free of barriers. We won't stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

There's also something that I would like to add as someone who is a veteran and survivor of gender-based violence (rape, sexual assault, and more). This isn't specific to the military but in the world as whole. In the military, women are not allowed to terminate the pregnancy and have it covered by Tricare due to the policies set in place. Service members are allowed to get an abortion with civilian medical providers. I know this because I was one of the service members that needed to terminate a pregnancy while I was active duty and had to seek medical treatment from a civilian health care provider. This was several years ago and things haven't changed except the continued war on Indigenous rights & women's rights that government continues to exacerbate.

Stand here before you in words because I am unable to speak in person or virtually during the hearing. Stand before you, with written testimony to read as a Veteran, MST Survivor, and service member at one time that elected an abortion and was punished by my SNCOIC at the time following the termination. Not because of policy but his morality on my choice and bodily autonomy--with no regard that my body was not to his Judge. Nobody who makes the decision to terminate should to have face retaliation and hostility. It was the hardest and most painful decision to go through and heal from afterwards.

Stand here before you with written testimony in support of the work of the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, Healthcare Providers, Veterans, Women of Color, Indigenous & Women in all their beautiful shades and hues. "Abortion is a healthcare right." -PP

I stand here in testimony no longer afraid of judgment or punishment but to be able to stand here and share my personal testimony to help protect those who haven't reached that place of healing and courage to speak their truth with this committee.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable services for all. I am not certain if this is included but please also keep in mind protecting the midwifery practices of women that are Kānaka Maoli.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Ruiz
ACLU Volunteer
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2023

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Jill N. Tokuda
U.S. House of Representatives, Hawaii Congressional District 2

Hearing: Wednesday, March 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325/Videoconference

Subject: Senate Bill No. 1, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Health Care

Chair Belatti, Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committees:

I submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill No. 1, Senate Draft 2, which is ultimately intended to maintain the constitutional right to an abortion guaranteed under *Roe v. Wade*. Further, this bill is intended to protect the privacy rights of those who access reproductive healthcare services; and protect healthcare workers who provide services to terminate pregnancies.

I would first like to recognize that although I consider my views on this matter to be from the perspective of a woman and private citizen, that I am also a member of Congress and that others may not distinguish between my professional and personal roles. I mention this to underscore the importance of this matter, and my decision to submit testimony. While this bill is under consideration by the State Legislature, it is a result of the devastating impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to overrule *Roe v. Wade*, and thereby has a nexus to nationwide policy.

Last May, when the draft *Dobbs* decision was leaked, I happened to be in Washington D.C. Angry, sad, refusing to accept that we are in a time when my nieces

have less rights than their grandmother did, I joined the crowds around the Supreme Court Building in protesting the attack on a women's reproductive freedom. This decision has set us back 50 years. Hawaii was at the forefront of the movement to protect an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy by being the first state to legalize abortion. We must now also be the leaders in protecting those rights we fought so hard for 50 years ago.

While we are fortunate enough to live in a state that recognizes the right to abortion, we also have a responsibility to be there for those Americans that currently live in fear not knowing whether, where, or how they can get safe, legal abortion care. The fact of the matter is that the *Dobbs* decision will not prevent abortions—it will prevent safe access to abortions, and thereby jeopardize the lives and health of pregnant people across the country.

Public health experts have expressed concern that reducing access to abortion may lead to more pregnancy-related deaths in the United States. Today, the United States is already the deadliest developed country to give birth in. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2020, the maternal mortality rate in the United States was 24 deaths per 100,000 live births—more than three times the rate in most other high-income countries. As a country, we are already failing to assure the health of pregnant people and the Supreme Court's ruling will only worsen the nation's maternal mortality crisis if we do not take immediate action.

In the months since *Dobbs*, 24 states have banned abortion or are on track to do so. Politicians should not be in the position to decide who does and does not get access to health care. We must do better here in Hawaii.

On October 11, 2022, then-Governor David Ige issued an executive order to help secure protections for both providers and patients across the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii State Legislature is now considering Senate Bill No. 1, which would codify and expand upon this directive to safeguard the privacy rights of all patients seeking abortion services and protect abortion providers from efforts that threaten and distract them from delivering safe and effective abortion care.

It is critical that we uphold Hawaii state law, which guarantees that all pregnant people have access to safe and legal abortion care, no matter their zip code or income level. No patient should be forced to carry a pregnancy against their will, nor should a provider be punished for ensuring patients receive the individualized, quality care that they need. Senate Bill No. 1 affirms the rights and freedoms of every person within the State's boundaries to have complete autonomy over their own body.

In 1970, Hawaii became the first state to legalize abortion, three years before *Roe v. Wade* granted the constitutional right to abortion. Now, Hawaii must once again lead the nation in protecting the right to choose for which we fought so hard to secure more than 50 years ago.

I commend the Hawaii State Legislature for taking swift and bold action on behalf of the people of Hawaii and once again leading the nation in doing what is right.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 6:23:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

May I strongly urge opposition against SB1.

By expanding healthcare providers to the list of abortionists, we may cause harm to the professional care of patients. Abortion is a surgical procedure, if performed by mid-level providers, patient safety concerns arise.

With utmost respect, thank you for listening to my concern.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:20:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brittany	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am writing this apposing the bill. We are putting women at a greater risk of harm by allowing a broader group of medical professionals to perform an abortion. We should be asking ourselves why doctors are refusing to do these procedures, not lowering the criteria for them to be done. As it is, women are at a risk for infertility, depression, parts of the baby left in their uterus, and this is by people who are trained, how much more if we allow people with less training to perform these? This isn't about the health of the women.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:30:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Chou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in support of HB841 HD1. This bill amends HRS 586-10.5, Domestic Abuse Protective Orders to require reports by the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services when there are allegations of child abuse as defined in HRS 350-1 instead of allegations of domestic abuse.

Without this amendment, survivors of domestic violence would continue to face the potential of a Child Welfare Services (CWS) investigation when they include their children in a domestic violence protective order. Too often, survivors are subjected to more traumatization and victimization during a CWS investigation - instead of receiving trauma-informed help and resources, they are subjected to victim blaming and are held accountable for the abuse, not their partner. Survivor safety is not addressed, and yet we know, when a survivor is safe, their children are more likely to be safe as well.

Domestic violence protective orders are the only survivor-led legal remedy to which they have access and we must balance strengthening the intent of domestic violence protective orders and ensuring that allegations of child abuse are investigated and children are protected.

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

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:41:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in support of SB1 SD2. This bill amends HRS 586-10.5, Domestic Abuse Protective Orders to require reports by the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services when there are allegations of child abuse as defined in HRS 350-1 instead of allegations of domestic abuse.

Without this amendment, survivors of domestic violence would continue to face the potential of a Child Welfare Services (CWS) investigation when they include their children in a domestic violence protective order. Too often, survivors are subjected to more traumatization and victimization during a CWS investigation - instead of receiving trauma-informed help and resources, they are subjected to victim blaming and are held accountable for the abuse, not their partner. Survivor safety is not addressed, and yet we know, when a survivor is safe, their children are more likely to be safe as well.

Domestic violence protective orders are the only survivor-led legal remedy to which they have access and we must balance strengthening the intent of domestic violence protective orders and ensuring that allegations of child abuse are investigated and children are protected.

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

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:15:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Abortion is the killing of a baby human being. Calling an unborn baby a “nonviable fetus” does not change the biological fact that the unborn baby has its own DNA, his/her own heart, brain, eyes, organs, hands, torso, feet, etc. The baby is not its mother. The baby is an independent, free human being with the same right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness of all free people.

So many doctors and licensed physicians are opting out of killing human beings that now we are down a few more professional pegs allowing registered nurses to perform aspiration abortions? We know that you don’t care about the unborn baby who’s going to suffer a horrible death, but now it’s become obvious that you don’t care about the mothers either. Have you considered what happens should the nurse perforate the uterus or injure the cervix of a young mother?

Calling a pregnant mother a pregnant person does not change the biological fact that only a pregnant human female can become pregnant with a human baby. You have failed ‘what is a woman’ test.

This bill calls for potentially harboring criminals of other states. Not a great position to take since it goes against the ‘forming of a more perfect union.’ Doesn’t Hawaii go after persons who commit a crime in Hawaii who then flee to another state? And, don’t those states cooperate in apprehending those criminals?

The bottom line is that this is a terrible bill which would be totally unnecessary IF you, our legislators, were life-minded. But, sadly, the majority are not. You cannot legislate away the fact that you are participating in the killing of human life and severely wounding the souls and minds and, possibly, the bodies of young pregnant mothers.

You are in my prayers. God have mercy on us.

Say “NO” to SB1 SD2!

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred Hagen

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:25:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please know that there is nothing more important to me than my right to make EVERY decision in this life for myself. Please do everything you possibly can to protect us and pass SB1! Thank you!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:27:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Franklin Toliva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't believe this bill should pass unless everyone in this state is in agreement that none of us have the right to life at any stage of life. We're so privileged to even exist. Any one of our mothers could have made the difficult decision to abort us, yet I'm sitting here writing this testimony and every respected official in office has the ability to read and listen to this testimony because someone chose to--at bare minimum--keep us around while we were still considered "fetuses" in our mothers' bodies. I'm sure there were plenty of mothers who felt like they couldn't handle bringing a child into this world for some reason and the idea of actually raising one was probably just as unthinkable! However, in spite of whatever challenges these mothers faced from conception through birth (and so on, for those who had the ability to and chose to raise their own children), they brought children into this world. I don't know which senate member or representative had a tough upbringing or a great one, nor do I know the horror stories that some have endured & beautiful memories that others have been privileged to have. But what I do know is that everyone had the same right to live--whether they were cared for well or not--and now all of you are in an incredible position to make a difference in so many people's lives. I'm not sure if Roe v. Wade or any other abortion bill/measure/law was in existence a year before you folks were born, but what if it was? What if your mother realized she was pregnant with you and chose to cut your life short before you even had a chance to live it? You couldn't say "I would have done this or that" because you wouldn't have even had a voice or opinion to air. It was up to your mom, not you. For those who introduced the bill, have you ever asked your moms if they ever wanted or thought about aborting you, whether legal or not? It's a sobering thought alone! But now you're here! You've been here, you've experienced life! Back then, obviously your moms made the choice to keep you folks but then it was up to her, other parental figures and/or family, community, etc. to help raise you! Yet, the fact remains that your mom (and those who helped her bring you into this world) honored your right to life. So, instead of creating a measure to cut a life short in the womb, why not create a measure that cuts one's (potentially) negative quality of life short WITHOUT ending it by developing centers (and allocating state funds towards those centers) filled with the following: spiritual/house of worship resources that uplift and care for families, holistic education on how to care for yourself and your health before & after conceiving a child, mental health awareness and how your mental health can be affected by carrying & ultimately producing a child, community support groups for those struggling with all things related to having a relationship & having a kid/kids, and referrals to partner organizations who provide medical assistance/information, parent training, financial stewardship for families, as well as referrals to trusted adoption agencies and foster home organizations, and any other additional resources for new parents and/or parents who desire to create a better life for their kids. And for minors, it's not enough to have sex education, one

"baby challenge" in school for upperclassmen, and a couple health talks and expect them to understand the weight of producing a child and then raising one. So to include a provision for them to get abortions without consent and the expectation that they'll understand what they're doing and what they have to live with afterwards is far-fetched and truly unthinkable. There are adult women who still carry emotional (and some physical) damage from having abortions but our teenagers can carry the weight of having an abortion (or more than one) without any issue and without parents knowing? Absolutely not. Instead, re-direct these pregnant teens to organizations and community centers that will work with them and care for them through the process of birth--especially if their parents will be less than willing to do the same. Provide that same protection when they go these centers so they don't need to worry about parental consent. And for those who aren't pregnant but still thinking about sex or are already sexually active, refer them to organizations that provide self-esteem classes with incentives, promote holistic sex education (including abstinence), host activities that show a (significant) glimpse of what it's like to have to care for child 24/7, and what it's like to say no to going out with friends and late night parties because you're too busy caring for your child. And provide funds for those organizations to host activities, and workshops like that! For those minors with parents who would rather shelter their children from the world than help them develop an understanding of it--those are the minors that should also be allowed full access without consent to community resources & youth centers that provide holistic sex education and help for what a healthy romantic relationship looks like/feels like, and when to talk about bringing a child into their family, etc. And every community center and non-profit providing these resources should be given a protection provision that enables them to provide these resources to minors without parental consent. There are so many ideas and strategies to bring these ideas to LIFE but we need measures that focus on them!

Going further, introduce a measure that provides greater funding to social welfare organizations and gives incentives to overworked and underpaid social workers who desire to see their clients and their clients' families thrive right here in Hawaii. And be more vocal about how to access these resources and funds! We live in a digital world and simply putting it out on websites isn't enough. Use social media, news outlets, and most importantly, local organizations who will hype up the attention regarding these measures! We need more measures introduced that will actually help us take care of the keiki we have now AND the ones that are coming into this world, as well as the mothers who choose to give birth to them and the parents who choose to raise them, not measures that will completely snuff out a child's right to even make it out of their mother's womb.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:43:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Diamond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please veto this bill. It's not up to state to pry into family affairs. Thank you

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:53:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Conover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1. I am in support of keeping our abortion providers safe. Additionally, I support the continuation of safe abortion care services for the women of Hawaii.

Connie Conover CNM

Certified Nurse- Midwife

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:17:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher I Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose Sb1 sd2. No

minor should be able to have surgery

And said minors parents not know. Could you imagine you're under age child having an abortion and you not knowing?

And the child starts to complain about Abdominal pain and you think it's Just a stomach ache.

Not knowing

That adults

Have secretly

Performance surgery on your child. The child could bleed out and die and you Would be none the wiser that someone had given your child surgery?

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:46:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen-Rae Cachola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am a woman who was born and raised in Hawaii. Please support SB1, SD2. Please support women's right to abortion as a health care option.

Sincerely,

Ellen-Rae Cachola

To: House Committee for Health & Homelessness and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committees
From: LeighAnn Frattarelli, MD, MPH, FACOG
Re: SB 1 SD 2 Relating to Reproductive Health Care
Position: Strongly Support

As a gynecologist living and practicing in Hawaii since 2000, I am proud of our state's strong protection of health care for women. I am proud that the right to abortion is protected in our state's constitution, and I am proud that our community is always working to provide easier access to this important part of health care to our residents. Access to abortion care is imperative in the promotion of health and wellbeing in Hawaii.

Many other state governments that do not hold our same values desire to impose their laws upon our providers and visitors that come to our state needing health care, either by plan or by missed timing of their visit to our islands. SB 1 SD 2 provides critical and timely protections to prevent legal actions against Hawaii's healthcare providers and patients from other states who receive abortion care legally in Hawaii. Threats of civil lawsuits and criminal prosecution for actions lawfully provided in our state cannot limit the care of physicians seeking to provide needed abortion care. SB 1 SD 2 reinforces that such laws by other states are contrary to Hawaii's public policy and the state constitutional right of privacy in Hawaii.

Other portions of this bill seek to clarify the current standard of care in Hawaii regarding privacy and the rights of minors age 14- 17 to access reproductive healthcare without parental consent. While of extreme importance, this is not a change to how providers currently practice, but a statement of commitment to this importance right to privacy by the State of Hawaii.

Please support Hawaii's healthcare workers who desire to provide comprehensive healthcare to all women no matter the length of stay in our island or their age. Please support the women who need abortion care for their health and the health of their family. I strongly urge you to pass SB 1 SD2.

Thank you for believing in Hawaii and the work we are doing here to support women and their families.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:58:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francisco Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am asking you all to vote NO on this SB1 bill. We are all created in the image of God and we have the conviction that this bill is an abomination to our creator! All of you who support this bill will be judged for it by the Almighty! Do not be swayed by the popular culture but instead go with that instinct that the Lord is speaking to your heart. Stand up for the one that cannot speak! That is a human being in that whom according to Gods Word! Amen!

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:37:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana Paahana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I testify against this bill expanding abortion surgery to be performed by a Physician's Assistant. Only doctors should do surgery. Is it because we have such a shortage of doctors, or is it that doctors don't want to perform abortion surgeries? Finding a good doctor on Maui is difficult.

Allowing that a minor may consent to receive treatment to induce abortion without a parent/guardian consent is wrong! Minors need parental approval for a field trip from school...this does not make sense.

Hawaii is already a pro choice state, there is no need for these additions.

Problems of growing homelessness, Hawaii's broken public educational system, the lack of affordable housing for average working people, and the cost/beaurocracy of doing business in our islands are good things to focus on.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:39:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kent Kitagawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Life is precious and a fetus from conception through birth is a living human soul endowed with spirit and full human potential. Except in extreme cases where the pregnancy (e.g. ectopic) presents a threat to the life of the mother and would then put two lives in grave danger, should termination of a pregnancy be considered the only recourse. Even in cases of rape, counseling services and possible adoption should be explored, as there are so many couples that cannot conceive for physical reasons, and could give this child a home. Please do not treat the unborn life as some commodity, to be accepted or rejected at whim; there is a sacredness to human life beyond our own full cognizance.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 12:36:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello everyone,

My name is Chantell and I am testifying in strong support of SB1 relating to health care.

While abortion remains legal in Hawai‘i; it has yet to become universally safe, equitable, and affordable for all. Limiting 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 archipelago. Colonial restrictions on abortion disproportionately impact Black, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, poor, and gender-oppressed people the hardest, especially those living on neighbor islands without easy access to local abortion providers. We all deserve access to health care services free of barriers. We won’t stop fighting until abortion is affordable, widely available, and readily accessible to anyone who needs it.

Please pass SB1 removing unnecessary barriers to abortion and expand accessible and equitable health care services for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Chantell Cambia

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 5:59:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nancy Yang and I'm an obstetrician and gynecologist in training at the University of Hawai'i. I work mostly at Kapiolani Medical Center and Queens Medical Center on Oahu. I have the privilege of training under many other abortion providers and doctors who have worked so hard to move this bill forward. I recently helped to take care of two patients. One had a very early second trimester complication that could have resulted in severe infection and bleeding, so she decided to have an abortion. The other patient had a severe fetal anomaly but decided to carry her pregnancy to term and had an uncomplicated delivery. Both patients, in the state of Hawai'i, were legally able to choose the outcome they wanted for their pregnancy. Our jobs as healthcare providers is to help patients achieve the best outcome for themselves using the full spectrum of modern medicine, and this includes safe abortion. But this is no longer possible for patients in many other states in the US. I am grateful for the work of our Senators on SB1 to protect the rights of our patients, and now I look to our Representatives to finish this important work: please pass SB1.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:36:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning. I am writing in support of SB1 to protect the right to abortion access in the state and protect providers. I am an ObGyn and have been in medical practice for the past 20 years in Hawai'i. I support access to safe abortion care. This includes pregnancy termination for any reason, as each situation is unique and complex. Pregnancy has a major physiologic, psychologic, and social impact on a pregnant person's life - and life-threatening pregnancy risk has been steadily increasing over the years. We must protect an individual's autonomy to guide one's own health, and to be able to choose a safe abortion option as a part of standard medical care.

Mahalo,

Reina Harris, MD

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:57:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please refer to written testimony upload in pdf format.

Respectfully,

Sharon Martin

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:55:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Manayan, MD MPH	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Olivia Manayan and I am an OB/GYN resident physician based in Honolulu. I train mainly at Kapiolani Medical Center and Queen's Medical Center, and have provided abortion care at both these hospitals. I am here today in **strong support** of SB1.

Every person with a uterus has the right to decide if and when she bears children. To deny her this right is to mark her as a second-class citizen; by forcing a person to be a slave to her fertility, you deny her the ability to fully exercise her inalienable rights to life, and to liberty. The Dobbs decision and subsequent legislation being passed in some states to restrict abortion does just that.

In medicine, we strive to provide care that balances the principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, and autonomy. As a physician, it is my duty to help my patient to get the care that is best for her life and circumstances. Abortion is essential healthcare that is provided with these principles in mind. When writing this statement, I am reminded of a patient who presented in her second trimester of pregnancy. She explained to me that her partner had left her, and she knew that in order to be able to provide for her two existing children that she was now a single mother to, she had to end this pregnancy. The decision to end pregnancy, whether difficult or easy, is always made with considerable thought. No person gets pregnant so that she can have an abortion.

SB1 will help to ensure that the people of Hawai'i, as well as those who come to Hawai'i to seek abortion care, will not face persecution for making the best healthcare decision for themselves and their families. I again reaffirm my support for this bill, and thank you for your time.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 11:33:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josiah Araki	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

"So you shall not pollute the land where you *are*; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it."

Today, I speak in opposition of SB1 and denounce it as not only a further step down a path stained red with the blood of the most innocent and vulnerable in our society, but as a gross violation of the Dormant Commerce Clause.

As has been understood since the days of the Marshall Court, The US Congress has sole power to regulate interstate commerce. This bill seeking to turn Hawaii into a "sanctuary state" for Abortion violates this by preventing other states from extraditing their own citizens for purchase of goods and or services deemed illegal in that state.

"§836-2

"or where a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence for a criminal violation of a law of another state involving the provision, paying for, receipt of, or assistance with reproductive health care services"

Further, by providing a means for citizens of other states to obtain abortions, the State of Hawaii is depriving those states of future citizens, whom themselves would otherwise make a sizeable dent in interstate commerce.

Further issues with this bill include

- Section 7's amendment to HRS, specifically to subsection C, removes discipline by other states or federal organizations on account of an unlawful abortion in another state, despite, regardless of one's views of abortion, it still being the knowing performance of an illegal medical procedure.
- This bill, which is supposedly about women's rights, replacing mentions of pregnant females with "pregnant person", a highly controversial and widely debated term.

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 11:40:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Compoc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 15, 2023

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Re: In strong support of SB1, SD2

My name is Kim Compoc. I am a community member who lives in House District 26 and Senate District 11. I teach U.S. history at University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu, including classes on LGBTQ+ history. This bill, as our Hawai'i Attorney General has recognized in previous testimony, is "consistent with Hawai'i's long standing protection for sexual and reproductive rights." Furthermore, the director of the Department of Human Services, has also recognized, this bill "supports an individual's right to make health care decisions, including all reproductive health care, in a supportive and stress-free environment."

Please do all you can to safeguard abortion access and reproductive justice here in Hawai‘i. Abortion is a health care, and health care is a human right! Women deserve health care. Transgender people deserve health care. Nonbinary people deserve health care. Youth deserve health care.

Please make sure to protect all aspects of this bill including the provisions that:

- Clarify that all pregnant people in the state have the right to access abortion care, including transgender and gender nonbinary people
- Allow physician assistants to provide safe and effective abortion care
- Protect access to telehealth abortion services
- Reinforce young peoples’ ability to access abortion care

Thank you for your work in protecting health care access in Hawai‘i!

Sincerely,

Kim Compoc, PhD

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 12:39:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
russell j garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1 you are taking our God given rights as parents of our children. I am a father and grandfather. I want to know everything about my children and grandchildren without them hiding it from us . You are teaching our children to lie . Liars are Going against God's Against God's teachings. You will all be held accountable for going again my creator (God) . My child is my responsibility not yours .

SB1 Abortion Testimony for HLT 3-15-23

Honorable Chair Belatti and House Committee members, I am Dr. Joe Ritter and am testifying **IN SUPPORT OF SB1**, for reproductive rights, for human rights, for the right to choose.

I almost did not testify today because as I have no uterus I have no right to say what reproductive medical choices any woman or any other person makes.

Nevertheless, as a scientist I feel compelled to speak out about this issue. Although my doctorate is in Physics My qualification to speak on this topic is that my first several refereed scientific publications were as a teenager in the fields of Developmental Biology specifically Embryo development, Teratology, the study of birth defects, and Pathologic Embryology.¹⁻⁶

My qualifications in that field relevant to this discussion include multiple refereed papers and even being an Invited Keynote Speaker for the Mid Atlantic **Reproduction** and Teratology Society for my work developing landmark artificial intelligence data analysis techniques for birth defect Data⁶ 38 years ago. I have published over 50 other papers⁷ and done 46 years of research in a dozen fields in science, including Biology, Genetics, Oceanography, Satellite Remote sensing, Spacecraft propulsion, Space Optics, Metamaterial molecular design and many others. The point is I am a reputable scientist.

My main thesis is simple. A fertilized egg is not a human. A fertilized egg is not a human. Many who refuse to acknowledge a woman's fundamental right of choice often claim fallaciously that once an egg is fertilized it is a human. This is wrong. Let me explain.

Cellular differentiation is a process in which a general purpose cell expresses DNA codes in such a way that it or its next generations turn into cells with a more specific function. Common cells like stem cells or a single fertilized egg are not highly differentiated and for many generations are simply a non-specific blob of cells with no neural development, no consciousness and no external human traits.

Such blobs are no more human than the skin I scrape off my arm. Yes both have human DNA, yes both can replicate, but until a substantial amount of time has passed and extensive differentiation occurs allowing specific multi-morphology expression, a single cell or a small lump of cells is not a human.

Even after fetal cells begin to differentiate, there is no functioning consciousness. According to DARPA, a fly's brain is capable of 1 Gigaflop in computations. Yet in a fetus neural development is not even near that level until far later in pregnancy. In contrast, a developed human brain operates at the Exaflop level, a billion times the fly brain computational ability. There is no consciousness nor significant neural activity in a newly fertilized egg nor in a 6 week old fetus.

My second point is I support SB1 on legal grounds:

The central premise of Roe v. Wade was that a woman has the right to terminate a pregnancy before viability and also even after viability if an abortion is necessary to preserve her life or health.

The recent Dobbs vs. Jackson decision is highly debated with good reason: The "Due Process Clause" of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution provides a "right to privacy". The Constitution therefore protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. This is a fundamental right. Such difficult decisions can only be made by a woman and her physician.

Further, as a fundamental constitutionalist I am compelled to point out that Separation of church and state, is a fundamental tenant of our political system. To be specific, though not mentioned in the constitution, Our 3rd President [Thomas Jefferson](#) referred to the First Amendment as creating a "wall of separation" between church and state, and I follow his lead on this. We must not live in the dark ages, nor ignore science and make law based on religious tenets. ALSO we must have a clearly defined barrier between religion and education.

My last point is about human rights:

I have personally known a person carrying a child who would be born dead. To force a mother to bring such a fetus to term, to go through this hell is unconscionable.

Let us not forget how last November Dr. Caitlin Bernard was charged by a Republican attorney General in Indiana for her compassionate act of giving abortion medication to a 10 year old who was viciously raped in Ohio. **We must make Hawaii a safe haven for women** from anywhere without fear of cross state prosecution **and we must ALSO protect our medical providers.** If federal funds for clinics or procedures disappear we must make laws to compensate and protect these institutions.

If we are to be an enlightened society, not only must we allow women to control their own bodies, we must also ensure health care is available to all in need, of any age, of any gender and protect medical providers who protect us. I hope our wise legislature will expand funding and accessibility as abortions are only available on Maui and Oahu. Hawai'i, Kauai, Molokai and Lanai lack providers. We need to establish travel and housing funds for those geographically isolated from care because Health care is a human right, and no one should have their medical rights infringed upon simply because they can't afford to pay for a procedure.

In conclusion: I urge you to make laws based on sound science, compassion, respect for any person's reproductive rights, and not religious rhetoric. As a Democrat I ask you to please stand up against the slippery slope of the right wing radical Republican agenda that seeks to strip people of not only reproductive rights but also many other rights.

Thank you both for hearing my testimony and for your dedication to our society.

Dr. Joe Ritter HD 11 SD6 Kihei Hawai'i

References:

- 1 Teratogenesis of Di(2-ethylhexyl)Phthalate, 2-ethyl hexanol, 2-ethylhexanoic Acid, and Valproic Acid, and Potentiation by Caffeine, Ritter et al, (Teratology 35:41-46 1987)
- 2 Teratogenicity of Dimethoxyethyl Phthalate and its Metabolites Methoxyethanol and Methoxyacetic Acid in the Rat, Ritter et al, (Teratology 32:25-31 1985)
- 3,4,5 Manuals (reproduced for use at the Institute for Developmental Research, Childrens Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati Ohio) :
 - Teratology Database and Correlation System Manual, J. Ritter 1981
 - Radio Isotope Intracellular p.H. Analysis System Manual, J. Ritter 1979
 - Efficient DNA Autoradiograms Data Editing System Using Trained Voice Recognition 1979Some citations from 1976 computer work.... Check internet wayback machine?
- 6 Novel Top Down Self Modifying Algorithms for Analysis of Teratological Data, J. Ritter, Proceedings of the 61st Meeting of the Mid Atlantic Reproduction and Teratology Society, 1985 (Invited KEYNOTE SPEAKER)
- 7 <https://www.semanticscholar.org/author/J.-Ritter/102977755>
- 8 <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/indiana-doctor-defends-actions-in-10-year-old-rape-victim-ms-abortion>

SB-1-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 2:00:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SJ MELENDREZ	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair March 14, 2023
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: SJ Melendrez, Commissioner

Subject: SB 1 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Hearing: March 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference, State Capitol

Dear Senators:

We appreciate your work and diligence at creating and supporting laws which protect and prosper the people of our great State of Hawai'i. I provide the narratives herein as a personal testimony, not from a group with personal perspectives. I voice strong opposition to this bill and request for your consideration that the bill would not move forward in our legislature.

In my work with State and County governments and my position as a Commissioner, I come in contact with many people of various cultures and backgrounds and in regards to this bill, I have heard overwhelming from the constituents, are voicing opposition to this bill.

There are many pressing needs of the people of Hawai'i and spending legislature time and public resources to support this bill, when we have so many other pressing needs within our society which do not have resolution, some have said it is unnecessary. It is preferred that your time be spent on items within our society which do not have resolution.

- This bill in addressing health care are already addressed and resolution provided, codified in our state and to spend more time and taxpayer dollars in an area which is already addressed is redundant and some has said it is a waste of taxpayer dollars.
- In review of the bill there are various areas which may place our constituency at risk and eliminates the guard rails that protect the people from abuse. Other areas of the bill leave the State open to risk itself.

- The bill also involves the Governor's office and to take up the Governor's time for something that is already addressed, appears be a distraction to his important time.
- The bill appears to be an over-action to a problem that does not exist which is motivated by the political climate of the season.
- It appears the bill has an underlying overtone of fear, and we want to ensure that bills are in our State are not crafted out of fear but based upon the rule of law and provides what is in the best interest of all of those in the State of Hawai'i for the greater good of all, the born and the unborn citizens to protect and promote all of the people of Hawai'i

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter and for including this testimony in consideration of this bill.

Best regards:

SJ Melendrez, PMO

Corp: SPM, Managing Principal

Corporate Innovation Center, Nimitz Hwy, Honolulu

Gov't: Commissioner

Mailings : PO Box 894568, Mililani, HI 96789

(M) 808.693.6301

Zoom, Commissioner Melendrez

I am writing, as a concerned citizen, to state my opposition to SB1 SD2. Although I don't know the ramifications of this bill, I am opposed to any expansion of terminating the life of the unborn from point of conception. I believe that in the sovereign grace and mercy of our Infinite Creator God there are no mistakes, mishaps, wrongdoings. God is sovereign over every conception. To destroy a life at its essence (conception) or to support any such practice is to violate the God of Life. Of course there is forgiveness for repentance, but let us as a state not promote the path toward death.

The question that confronts me on behalf of the unborn is "Would I have wanted to be aborted?" Would any of us?