



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

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

Hearing: Friday, April 14, 2023, 11:15 AM, Conference Room 329

RE: **SCR94 SD1 Relating to Access to Contraceptives**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SCR94 SD1**. This measure, on behalf of the Hawai'i Senate and House of Representatives, urges retail stores and pharmacies doing business in the State to adopt policies on a national and local level to guarantee an individual's unhindered access to all United States Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives.

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 safety net health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible 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 health needs.

AlohaCare is committed to improving and advocating for access to care, including reproductive health care. We fully support this measure because peoples' ability to access contraceptives should not be complicated or made a public embarrassment by requiring someone to unlock and potentially judge those choosing to make a personal health choice. This measure would help to protect personal autonomy and contraceptive access for the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SCR94 SD1**.

SCR-94-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2023 9:42:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/14/2023 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Wilbur	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in support of this resolution and urge the committee to pass it.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
April 14, 2023**

Re: SCR 94 SD1 URGING RETAIL STORES AND PHARMACIES DOING BUSINESS IN THE STATE TO ADOPT A POLICY ON A NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL GUARANTEEING AN INDIVIDUAL'S UNHINDERED ACCESS TO ALL UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION-APPROVED CONTRACEPTIVES.

Good morning, Chair Belatti and members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

While we understand the intent, **we do not feel there is a need for SCR 94 SD1** Urging Retail Stores and Pharmacies Doing Business in the State to Adopt a Policy on a National and Local Level Guaranteeing an Individual's Unhindered Access to All United States Food and Drug Administration-Approved Contraceptives.

Earlier in this session, the legislature passed SB1 Relating to Health Care. This new law guarantees that Hawaii has continued access to reproductive health care in our state. We also want to point out that pharmacies and retailers across our state have been and will continue to conduct business according to federal and state laws as well as continue to provide US Food & Drug Administration approved contraceptives. **Currently many stores are experiencing a delay in receiving products due to delayed shipping and supply chain disruptions.** This is a nationwide dilemma and NOT Hawaii specific. However, **while some stores and pharmacies may be experiencing supply shortage or depletion of products it may just mean that they are on back order from the manufacturer or the distributor, or in their next shipment.**

We would also like to make it clear that many times items are put behind counters or locked in cases as they are high theft items that are shoplifted and sold on the illegal black market or on marketplace websites. It is not to deter people from purchasing the items. Crime in our stores continues to rise and we are taking preventive measures deter theft.

We would also like to point out that some of the stores mentioned are currently not our members and we unfortunately do not have their contact information. While we do not mind spreading the word, it would be more effective to send the notice to their Hawaii corporate offices where the C-Suite decision makers are.

SCR-94-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 3:58:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/14/2023 11:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SCR-94-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:16:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/14/2023 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submitted testimony on this on 4/2/2023 for the 4/4/2023 HHS committee review of the resolution. There was one other testimony for this measure, and he felt it was personally invasive and opposes this measure.

We are talking about the health and well-being of our young people. Being able to prevent pregnancies and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections with something as simple as access seems intuitive. When we talk about the social determinants of health (SDOH) creating health inequities, access is one of the problems. Neighborhoods where contraceptives are not available are more likely to be in lower socioeconomic areas. In these areas, the population is more likely to be people of color, and with less education. By having a policy to increase access to contraception we are working on removing some of these barriers. When young people avoid unwanted pregnancies, they have more access to education which can lead to more economic stability (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, n.d.)

As a mother, a woman, and a nurse, I support this resolution. Mahalo for your time.

Reference

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.) *Healthy people 2030. Social determinants of health.* <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>