
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that reproductive care is
2 an essential form of health care. In March 1970, Hawaii became
3 the first state to legalize abortion, three years before the
4 landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision by the United States Supreme Court
5 that protected access to abortion nationwide. By legalizing
6 abortion access, the State recognized that preserving access to
7 safe and legal reproductive care is a vital public health
8 objective for the islands.

9 The legislature also finds that Hawaii's unique geography
10 and high cost of living present barriers to obtaining
11 reproductive care for patients and potential patients. As of
12 2022, only a few abortion providers host reproductive care
13 clinics on two to three islands in the State. According to
14 Planned Parenthood, the number of abortion providers in the
15 State has been on the decline since the 1990s.

16 Furthermore, studies show that access to abortion care is
17 linked to financial well-being. According to The Turnaway Study



1 conducted by Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at
2 the University of California San Francisco, people who were
3 denied access to an abortion experienced an increase in
4 household poverty lasting at least four years relative to those
5 who received an abortion. In addition, women who lacked access
6 to reproductive care were also found to be less able to pay for
7 basic living expenses and had lower credit scores and higher
8 rates of debt and eviction than those with access to abortion
9 care.

10 The legislature also finds that the United States Supreme
11 Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*
12 overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended the federal constitutional
13 right to abortion care. In overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the United
14 States Supreme Court erased nearly fifty years of legal
15 precedent supporting the fundamental right to reproductive
16 freedom, leading to a wave of abortion restrictions enacted by
17 state legislatures across the country. The legislature finds
18 that the United States Supreme Court's decision
19 disproportionately harms Black, Latino, indigenous, and other
20 people of color, for whom access to health care and economic
21 opportunities has historically been impeded by systemic racism.



1 In response to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v.*
 2 *Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the legislature believes
 3 that the State must take action to uphold Hawaii's legacy as a
 4 leader in advancing reproductive care and enact policies to
 5 strengthen reproductive rights in the islands.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve access
 7 to abortion services in the State by establishing a Hawaii
 8 reproductive care workforce special fund, administered by the
 9 department of health, to support programs related to training
 10 health professionals to increase the State's capacity to provide
 11 reproductive care services, increasing access to reproductive
 12 care services in rural and remote areas, providing financial
 13 assistance to certain students at the University of Hawaii, and
 14 projecting future reproductive care workforce needs.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 17 and to read as follows:

18 "§321- Hawaii reproductive care workforce special fund.

19 (a) There is established within the state treasury the Hawaii
 20 reproductive care workforce special fund to be administered by



1 the department of health and into which shall be deposited the
2 following:

3 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature to the special
4 fund;

5 (2) Grants provided by governmental agencies or any other
6 source;

7 (3) Moneys directed to the special fund from contracts;

8 (4) Donations and contributions made by private
9 individuals or organizations for deposit into the
10 special fund;

11 (5) Interest accrued on all amounts in the special fund;
12 and

13 (6) Any other moneys made available to the special fund
14 from other sources.

15 (b) Moneys from the Hawaii reproductive care workforce
16 special fund shall be expended by the department and shall be
17 used for programs related to:

18 (1) Training health care professionals to increase the
19 State's capacity to provide reproductive care
20 services;



1 (2) Increasing access to reproductive care services in
2 rural and remote areas;

3 (3) Providing financial assistance to students at the
4 University of Hawaii who are pursuing academic
5 programs in fields related to reproductive care; and

6 (4) Projecting future reproductive care workforce needs."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2024-2025 to be deposited into the Hawaii reproductive care
12 workforce special fund established by section 2 of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii
14 reproductive care workforce special fund the sum of \$500,000 or
15 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024
16 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for
17 fiscal year 2024-2025 for the purposes of the special fund.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 health for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that sections 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1,
3 2023.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Lopez", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. 553

Report Title:

Reproductive Care; Hawaii Reproductive Care Workforce Special Fund; DOH; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii reproductive care workforce special fund to be administered by the department of health to support programs that train health care professionals, increase the State's capacity to provide reproductive care services, increase access to reproductive care services in rural and remote areas, provide financial assistance to certain students at the University of Hawaii, and project reproductive care workforce needs. Appropriates funds.

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