

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

February 5, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1343](#) - RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS.

Hearing: February 7, 2023, 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides comments on this measure and defers to the Commission on the Status of Women. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce priorities identified in the executive budget and forthcoming Governor's Messages.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes and appropriates moneys for the Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator within the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes.

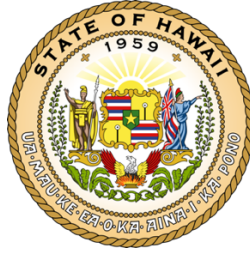
DHS recognizes the critical importance of accessing reproductive health care services and appreciates the Legislature's efforts to preserve safe access to reproductive health care services in Hawaii.

Coordination of care for residents on neighbor islands and rural areas is also of critical importance. DHS works toward seamless access and provision of care and has a team of

individuals within the Med-QUEST division coordinating care for those covered by Medicaid. Care for individuals from neighbor islands often requires coordination of travel and coverage of expenses.

To meet the intent of this measure, the Legislature may want to consider placing a coordinator within a community or non-profit organization to assist with the coordination of care. It may be more expeditious and efficient from a community perspective.

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



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

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

In Strong Support - H.B. 1343

Dear Chairs Belatti and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Amato and Takenouchi, and Honorable Members:

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **strongly supports H.B. 1343**, which would establish and appropriate moneys for the Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator within the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes.

The process to develop and introduce this bill is the highest example of good governance.

H.B. 1343 is the outcome of months of close dialogue between legislators and more than just the usual stakeholders on reproductive health care, i.e., physicians, attorneys, and legacy organizations. The Dobb’s Response Team listened to a diverse cross-section of Hawai‘i: faith leaders, immigrant rights’ advocates, domestic violence subject matter experts, sex trafficking survivors, mothers, and youth across the state. This bill reflects the community’s needs and solutions to end forced pregnancy throughout Hawai‘i.

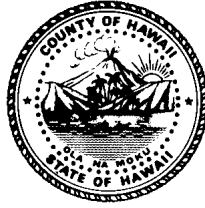
The strategy of decriminalizing abortion and leaving access up to the private sector has left an estimated 200,000 women, girls, and oppressed gender minorities in Hawai‘i at risk of forced pregnancy. It’s overtime for us, the government, to take responsibility for ending the crime against humanity that is forced pregnancy. There are a number of important reproductive health bills this Session but none would improve lives on the ground and advance the struggle for women’s rights like this bill.

Accordingly, the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women asks the Committees to pass H.B. 1343 for our community and for generations of girls to come.

In gratitude for your leadership,

Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

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: February 6, 2023
TO: House Committees on Human Services and Health & Homelessness
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member District 2
SUBJECT: HB 1343

Aloha Chairs Au Belatti and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Amato, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB1343 to create a statewide abortion access coordinator office. Hawai‘i lacks abortion care infrastructure– the policies, resources, and services necessary for all women, girls, and pregnant people to readily access abortion. We need bills that protect the status quo (e.g. legal shield for providers and language clean-up), **and** bills that address the forced pregnancy crisis on neighbor islands. There are no in-clinic elective abortion providers on Kaua‘i, Lana‘i, Moloka‘i, and only very limited services on Hawai‘i Island. Hundreds of thousands (est. minimum of 220,000) of women in Hawai‘i have limited or no access to abortion procedures. Air travel can be an insurmountable barrier, especially for women who are homeless, poor, in their teenage years, fearful of an abusive partner, unable to speak English, suffering from substance abuse or mental illness or living in a religiously conservative family or community (Lyte, B., Jan. 30, 2023)

Hawai‘i should build government infrastructure by investing in a place where non-profits and patients can go for abortion services, including medically accurate, non-judgmental information, insurance navigation, policy implementation, procedural training, abortion stigma intervention, and the full range of abortion procedures. Hawai‘i would be joining a progressive trend in women-friendly states. In 2022, California passed legislation (AB 1918) to establish a “reproductive health care corps” that would develop a robust medical workforce of abortion providers for unmet needs and underserved areas. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada



HAWAII STATE
**COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

February 7, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Terez Amato
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Greggor Ilagan
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi
Rep. Diamond Garcia

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

Re: HB1343 Relating to Reproductive Health Care Services

Dear Chairs Mizuno and Belatti, Vice Chairs Amato and Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committees on Human Services and Health & Homelessness:

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 domestic violence programs and shelters.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 28 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony in **support of HB1343** that would create an Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator.



HAWAI'I STATE
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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.

We support HB 1343 because it would build government infrastructure by investing in a place where non-profits and patients can go for abortion services, including medically accurate, non-judgmental information, insurance navigation, policy implementation, procedural training, abortion stigma intervention, and the full range of abortion procedures.

There are no in-clinic elective abortion providers on Kaua'i, Lana'i, Moloka'i, and only limited services on Hawai'i Island. Hundreds of thousands (est. minimum of 220,000) of women in Hawai'i have limited or no access to abortion procedures. Air travel can be an insurmountable barrier, especially for women who are homeless, poor, in their teenage years, fearful of an abusive partner, unable to speak English, suffering from substance abuse or mental illness or living in a religiously conservative family or community (Lyte, B., Jan. 30, 2023). **Survivors of domestic violence on our neighbor islands are especially vulnerable to these barriers. Access to abortion services is one way in which survivors can maintain or regain their autonomy.**

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

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Mizuno, Chair
Representative Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Representative Belatti, Chair
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: HB1343, relating to reproductive health care access
8:45 a.m., Feb. 7, 2023

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the committees:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 1343, relating to reproductive health care access.**

Reproductive healthcare is essential for families and our communities. It is important for adults and youth alike to have meaningful access to and choices in reproductive healthcare. Unfortunately, too many in Hawai'i face significant barriers to accessing necessary reproductive healthcare services. Barriers can range from a lack of qualified and available healthcare professionals to affordability to transportation issues to stigma and so much more. An office of reproductive health care access coordinator is crucial to find system-level and numerous responses to these barriers. In particular, a dedicated coordination office can ensure that reproductive healthcare services will meet people and communities where they are, respectful of their unique needs, choices and cultures.

HB1343 will help move the state forward so that women and pregnant people can get the healthcare they deserve. **Please support this measure.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



HB 1343, RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS

FEBRUARY 7, 2023 · HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMITTEES · CHAIRS REP. JOHN MIZUNO AND REP. DELLA AU BELATTI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance strongly supports HB 1343, relating to reproductive health care access, which establishes and appropriates moneys for the Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator within the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes.

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 misguided 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 numerous sex trafficking survivors whom we have helped to obtain vital reproductive care, we support this bill's establishment of a Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator to sustain our islands' continuum of abortion services for those in need.

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



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Human Services and Health and Homelessness
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329 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 H.B. 1343

Chairs Mizuno and Belatti, Vice Chairs Amato and Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Human Services and Committee on Health & Homelessness, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support H. B. 1343.**

Through Act 46, SLH 2014, Hawai'i became the 8th state in the nation to adopt the national best practices for Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) regulation, the APRN Consensus Model. Thanks to the Legislature's great wisdom, this legislation significantly and positively impacted the number of APRNs working in Hawai'i. The APRN Consensus Model establishes that APRNs can work to the fullest extent of their education and training, including training achieved through continuing professional development. In addition, Hawai'i legislators recognized APRNs in the eligible telehealth workforce, enabling their practices to expand to all people in Hawai'i, regardless of geographic location or island residence.

Even with this favorable regulatory environment, barriers to practice remain. When new practice standards are established, whether by state law or healthcare innovation, new education and training is needed. In addition, when laws or rules outside of the Nurse Practice Act or Rules are not updated to align with the scope of practice that is established within the Nurse Practice Act, challenges and barriers in delivering health care services result. Though APRNs are enabled to provide the service per their practice act, they remain unable to do certain healthcare functions because of disagreement across the constellation of laws and rules in Hawai'i.

In this present day, people needing reproductive care, particularly those on neighbor islands, are prevented from accessing healthcare due to limited providers in their regions who are trained to provider certain services, lack of telehealth infrastructure for those providers with the knowledge, skills, and abilities, as well as regulatory and administrative barriers that continue to impact practices.

While not these are not insurmountable challenges, the lack of resolution continues to prevent or delay people from accessing reproductive healthcare that is high quality, safe, and importantly, timely.

This measure aims to establish a reproductive health care access coordinator dedicated to resolving access to healthcare challenges by engaging in workforce development, facilitate care through supporting policies and telehealth access, and identify state laws and regulations that may prevent Hawai'i's residents from accessing reproduction healthcare. This measure should be seen for what it is: an exemplary effort to maximize and mobilize healthcare professionals to meet residents' needs by

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.

creating a state-driven coordinated approach to remove known challenges and optimize the current healthcare workforce of today and the future.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing respectfully asks the Committee pass **H.B. 1343** through your committees. 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, high-quality 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.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:03:09 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Saiki, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: House Committee on Human Services, Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair, Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair and House Committee on Health & Homelessness, Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

I am practicing OBGYN and work in in high risk pregnancy care. I routinely encounter women who are located on outlying islands and know first hand the difficulties these patients face accessing healthcare. It is common that all the options for reproductive health care are not available to patients based on where they live. It is our responsibility as a state and as health care providers to make reproductive healthcare provision as equitable and as far reaching as possible.

HB 1343 would establish moneys at the state level to create the Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator within the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes. This would address the issue of access to care at the state level and work to address disparities based on where patients live. A statewide reproductive health coordinator could identify challenges across the state, assist individuals with navigating barriers, and help develop a training program or course for abortion procedures.

We have a problem in our state with access to healthcare - especially abortion access. We need to fix this.

Kindly,

Kevin Saiki, MD
Oahu



ACOG

The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: House Committee on Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

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

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 8:45am

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

Re: HB 1343 Relating to reproductive health care access
Position: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) **supports HB 1343** which would establish and appropriate moneys for the Office of the Reproductive Health Care Access Coordinator within the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes.

Hawai'i has a long history of recognizing the importance of legal abortion care, and protecting this right 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 in 1970. The right to abortion has always been widely supported in Hawai'i,¹ and our health care organizations also recognize and support legal abortion because health care organizations and professionals know that the ability to control if and when to become pregnant is not only the very definition of bodily autonomy and important for overall wellbeing, but the ability to terminate a pregnancy is critical to public health and to reducing pregnancy related morbidity and mortality. Every person in Hawai'i should have this right.

Legality does not equal access, and Hawai'i has a major problem with access. Although abortion has been legal in Hawai'i since 1970, access to abortion is not a reality for many of our people. Hawai'i has a serious shortage of healthcare providers who perform abortion procedures, especially on neighbor islands. Many residents must not only gather the funds for a plane ticket, but must take days off from work to travel, must leave their families and communities, must find childcare, must travel and have their procedure without a support person. Some do not have these resources, and end up forced to carry a pregnancy, at whatever risk to themselves that entails.

Efforts within the private sector to address our lack of access to abortion care have not been enough. Although Hawai'i's legislators passed a law in 2021 that allowed advance practice registered nurses (APRN) to perform abortion procedures, and although APRNs have come

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

forward wanting to provide this care, they have had encountered serious challenges such as difficulty obtaining training, difficulty obtaining malpractice insurance, difficulty with dispensing of medications to name a few. Rather than individual healthcare providers recreating the wheel in each community, a statewide reproductive health coordinator would be able to identify these challenges across the state, assist individuals with navigating these barriers, develop a training program or course for abortion procedures, but also on statewide level coordinate an overall response with the goal to put more healthcare providers who will provide abortions in our communities. Caring for Hawaii's families and communities is all our kuleana.

We appreciate the legislature's efforts to protect legal abortion and protect choice in Hawai'i. When one cannot access abortion care, however, then it's not really a choice, and unfortunately choice is not a reality for many in Hawai'i.

It's time to make being able to choose to access this basic healthcare and being able to choose the best decision for one's self and one's family a reality for everyone in Hawai'i no matter which one of our beautiful islands you live on.

For these reasons, Hawai'i ACOG urges the legislature to **pass HB 1343**.



February 5, 2023

House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 7 | 8:45am | Room 329

RE: Testimony in **Support** of HB1343

Aloha nui e Chair Belatti, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Joint Committee,

We write today in strong support of HB1343 and the House of Representatives' intention to invest in reproductive healthcare infrastructure and provide expanded access for our neighbor island communities. The Patsy T. Mink Political Action Committee (PAC) was formed in 2005 to support and strengthen the reproductive rights of Hawai'i's residents, because we know that when individuals who can get pregnant have access to care, it yields healthier outcomes for our entire community.

It is estimated that a minimum of 220,000 women in Hawai'i have limited or no access to abortion procedures. This is exacerbated by the fact that there are currently no in-clinic elective abortion providers on Kaua'i, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, and only limited services on Hawai'i Island. Air travel can be an insurmountable barrier, especially for women who are homeless, poor, in their teenage years, fearful of an abusive partner, unable to speak English, suffering from substance abuse or mental illness, or living in a religiously conservative family or community.

There are a multitude of overarching issues and approaches facing the legislature this year in order to ensure that the reproductive rights that have long been recognized in Hawai'i continue to be protected, even under a shifting federal landscape. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs put these issues back in the hands of state legislatures, so there is no better time than now to ensure and protect these rights.

The proposed coordinator position in HB1343 is critical to addressing the access gap for individuals who can get pregnant on our neighbor islands, and we are in strong support of taking action to protect our community by ensuring access to reproductive healthcare infrastructure on all islands.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to share mana'o in support of HB1343.



To: Human Services and Health and Homelessness Committees
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday 2/7/23
Place: Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1343

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and the Members of the Committees,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1343 which would provide coordinated reproductive health care access for women. We believe that all women should have access to the comprehensive care they require.

This bill provides much needed focus on meeting the challenges of obtaining reproductive health care on the neighbor islands. Where one resides and the socioeconomic implications of requiring travel for access should not determine the care available to any individual. The bill's approach is comprehensive with a coordinator responsible for training programs, continuing education, telehealth technology, travel funds, clinics, and for identifying existing barriers and practices.

This bill will not only provide equity in access to reproductive health care to women across the state many of whom are currently underserved, but by doing so in a timely fashion will allow more cost-effective health care.

Please support HB1343.

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, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

Sincerely,
Nancy Rustad
Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:05:57 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

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 HB 1343.

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

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:37:26 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports HB1343. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member



Alliance Advocates - Hawai'i

To: Hawai'i House Committees on Human Services and Health & Homelessness
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023 at 8:45 am
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates in support of HB 1343

Dear Chairs Mizuno and Belatti and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") supports HB 1343, a bill that takes a critical step toward supporting access to abortion care across all islands. While Hawai'i has long been a leader in protecting and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health care, access to abortion services are still limited, and many people in our state still face significant geographical, financial, and logistical barriers when seeking abortion care.

Many people in Hawai'i live without, or with limited access, to a provider who can deliver abortion care. While access to medication abortion and telehealth services has greatly expanded access across all islands, many people – including those on Kauai, Molokai, and Lanai – do not have access to a local abortion provider that can provide in-clinic care, and, in turn, patients are forced to travel to other islands. For those patients, this could mean they have to arrange at least a day's worth of travel and pay for overnight accommodations, forcing them to take time off work and potentially arrange childcare or care for a family member with a health condition. These barriers fall hardest on Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian communities that are more likely to live in rural areas without a provider. Plus, air travel can be an insurmountable barrier for those who are young, immigrants, survivors of intimate partner violence, or face other barriers to health care.

HB 1343 helps improve access to abortion care in underserved communities by investing in infrastructure like telehealth technology and travel expenses for providers. PPAA believes that all people in Hawai'i deserve timely, safe, and local access to abortion care, and this bill takes steps toward achieving that goal. A pregnant person's freedom to plan their family is a near unanimously held belief among Hawai'i voters – 85 percent of Hawai'i 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 barriers to abortion care to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have full and equal access to the care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

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

From Holy Love Ministry to the visionary, Maureen – September 15, 2016

Our Lady comes as Our Lady of Sorrows. She says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"My greatest sorrow these days is mankind's propensity to please himself without regard for God and His Laws. Man uses every sort of rationalization to embrace sin without calling it a sin. He allows language to redefine good versus evil, thus obscuring the line of sin versus no sin. My Heart sorrows for the state of the conscience of the world. You do not see, dear children, that the path so many of you follow leads away from Jesus and your salvation. You are accepting popular opinions over God's Commandments. My Heart trembles at the thought of God's Justice."

"During these times, please understand, that **if you lend your support to one whom advances the cause of abortion or planned parenthood, you are guilty of these sins yourself.**"

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 11:52:45 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1343 is completely unnecessary and a waste of our tax dollars. The statement "hundreds of thousands of women and pregnant persons on neighbor islands lack equal access to reproductive health care" is questionable. The 2020 Census had a total Hawaii population of 1,455,271 and Honolulu County had 1,016,508 of those individuals living on the island of Oahu. With our aging population, a good many of our residents are either too old or too young to reproduce. We already have some of the least restrictive means to obtain contraception. Not only are some pills provided "over the counter", pharmacists were authorized to prescribe contraceptives by Act 067 in 2017.

What services will this "reproductive health care" office provide? The term is often used in Hawaii to mean abortion services that are destructive to young human beings, harmful to women, inhumane, unethical and immoral.

We have a doctor shortage. That is our biggest problem. A better solution to increase access to medical care is to provide a welcoming tax and living environment to encourage medical staff to live and work in our state. Current GET taxes and the reduced Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements are the real cause of our limited access to medical care. If you want better access, rehire all the medical personnel that were fired because they choose not to take the experimental COVID shot that has proven to have numerous debilitating side effects. We need more doctors and nurses, NOT more administrators that this bill advocates.

Do not pass HB1343. Vote NO.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:31:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
panelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB 1343. Reproductive health must be accessible throughout the Health care systems and Human services

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:00:30 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to any person killing another, that decision belongs to Jesus

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 7:15:55 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susana Kwock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on HB1343. Mahalo!

February 7, 2023

Chair John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
And
Chair Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in support of HB 1343 Relating to Reproductive Health Care Access

Thank you for considering House Bill 1343 which I support.

Women living on islands with limited access or no access to reproductive health care, including pre-natal care, who need assistance must travel or seek help via telehealth. With the passage of this bill access would be ensured on all islands.

House Bill 1343 proposes to create a position for a reproductive health care access coordinator to oversee efforts to provide all women in the state with equitable reproductive health care. Healthcare justice is important to every woman in the state, and I sincerely hope you will agree to move this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Mary Steiner

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:45:15 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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.

Despite Hawai'i's incredible legacy of championing reproductive rights, access to abortion on the neighbor islands has always been limited compared to access on Oahu. Many of the patients we see in our clinic that have to travel struggle with not just the cost of the plane ticket, but sometimes also childcare and time off of work. Many of them also have to undertake this journey alone, as their support network cannot travel with them. While increasing access to medication abortion through telemedicine has helped with some of these problems, not everyone wants or is able to have a medication abortion. The dream has always been to have providers on all of Hawai'i's islands, which is why state legislators passed the 2021 law that allowed advance practice registered nurses (APRN) to perform abortion procedures. However, APRNs who want to provide this care have faced serious challenges doing so, including difficulty obtaining training, malpractice insurance, and difficulty with dispensing of medications for medication abortion.

HB 1343 would establish a statewide reproductive health coordinator would be able to identify these challenges across the state, assist individuals with navigating these barriers, develop a training program or course for abortion procedures, but also on statewide level coordinate an overall response with the goal to put more healthcare providers who will provide abortions in our communities. Protecting legal abortion and protecting choice in Hawai'i also means ensuring that everyone in the state can access abortion without significant barriers, regardless of which island they live on. Thus, I strongly believe that Hawai'i should continue to demonstrate its devotion to its people, their families, their communities, and their access to this fundamental piece of healthcare, as it has throughout the last century. Therefore, I urge the state legislature to pass HB 1343.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:54:47 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose using any tax money to fun abortions. Vote NO on HB1343.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:24:05 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Divya Dethier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an abortion provider in Hawai'i and I urge you to support HB 1343.

Abortion is a necessary aspect of comprehensive reproductive health care. One in four women in the US will have an abortion in her lifetime. While Hawai'i has always been a leader in protecting access to abortion care nationally, access locally remains challenging for many Hawaiians, particularly those on neighbor islands.

For patients living in rural areas, the journey to getting an abortion is not always linear. A patient needs to first know where to look to find a provider who can give them the care they need, either through telemedicine or in person appointment. Sometimes they need to get an ultrasound. Finally, for procedure abortion, which can sometimes be a two day process, they need to travel to their appointment, which takes time away from their family, and has financial implications.

A reproductive health coordinator would be a point person to help the most vulnerable patients in our state navigate the complexities of the healthcare system when it comes to time-sensitive care such as pregnancy or abortion care. Not only can they help on a patient level, but on a state level as well, by helping develop training programs for advanced practice providers to expand access on outer islands for example; by organising needs assessments to address the multiple barriers patients face.

By having a centralised person to help coordinate care for our most vulnerable patients, and help work within the state government to expand access to abortion care, HB1343 is critical to protecting abortion access in Hawai'i. I urge you to pass HB1343.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:17:54 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chrystie Fujimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN practicing in Hawaii and access to abortion care on neighbor islands continues to be limited. Please help us take much needed steps to fix this. Our neighbor island patients are valuable citizens of this state and deserve equal access to quality medical care.

Sincerely,

Chrystie K Fujimoto, MD

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:18:01 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryana Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1230

Firearms Prohibited in Sensitive Places

This measure would have a profound impact on public safety, survivors of domestic violence, their children and the nonprofit organizations that serve them.

Perpetrators of domestic violence with access to guns use the threat of gun violence inflict emotional abuse on their partners or escalate to homicide. The presence of a firearm in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%. Additionally, more than half of women killed by gun violence are killed by family members or intimate partners.

And the trend is worsening: in the ten-year period between 2008 and 2017, intimate partner homicides of women involving guns increased by 15 percent. Adults are not the only victims. [On March 4, 2022 a father under a restraining order killed his three daughters during a court-ordered family visitation](#) at a church.

We must create safe spaces where survivors of domestic violence are free to heal and seek help after traumatic events. Prohibiting the public carrying of firearms in these spaces is paramount to creating this healing environment without threat of harm, revictimization, or re-traumatization.

Citations:

1 Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, Block C, Campbell D, Curry MA, Gary F, Glass N, McFarlane J, Sachs C, Sharps P, Ulrich Y, Wilt SA, Manganello J, Xu X, Schollenberger J, Frye V, Laughon K. Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study. Am J Public Health. 2003 Jul;93(7):1089-97. Doi: 10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089. PMID: PMC1447915

2 Fridel EE, Fox JA. Gender differences in patterns and trends in the US homicide, 1976-2017. Violence and Gender. 2019; doi: [10.1089/vio.2019.0005](https://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2019.0005). Data from this study were obtained by Everytown from the author James Alan Fox directly over email dated October 1, 2019 for this analysis.

Links:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/02/us/sacramento-church-shooting.html>

HB1343

Abortion Access Coordinator

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.

We support HB 1343 because it would build government infrastructure by investing in a place where non-profits and patients can go for abortion services, including medically accurate, non-judgmental information, insurance navigation, policy implementation, procedural training, abortion stigma intervention, and the full range of abortion procedures.

There are no in-clinic elective abortion providers on Kaua‘i, Lana‘i, Moloka‘i, and only limited services on Hawai‘i Island. Hundreds of thousands (est. minimum of 220,000) of women in Hawai‘i have limited or no access to abortion procedures. Air travel can be an

insurmountable barrier, especially for women who are homeless, poor, in their teenage years, fearful of an abusive partner, unable to speak English, suffering from substance abuse or mental illness or living in a religiously conservative family or community (Lyte, B., Jan. 30, 2023). Survivors of domestic violence on our neighbor islands are especially vulnerable to these barriers. Access to abortion services is one way in which survivors can maintain or regain their autonomy.

SB236

Expansion of Victim Counselor Privilege to Campus Advocates and Increases DV training to 35 hours

This bill expands the victim-counselor privilege under Rule 505.5 of the Hawai'i Rules of Evidence to include confidential advocates employed by the University of Hawai'i, and increases the training requirements for domestic violence advocates from 25 hours to 35 hours.

Survivors within the University of Hawai'i system, whether they are students or employees, should be afforded the same confidentiality protections as they would receive from community advocates and other service providers. This measure would enable more students and employees would be willing to disclose their victimization and in doing so, the opportunity to receive critical services such as safety planning. Currently, there are gaps in confidentiality and for many survivors in higher education, it can dissuade them from seeking the appropriate assistance, access to justice and resources to heal from their trauma.

Increasing the minimum number of hours of training a domestic violence advocate from 25 to 35 would better prepare them to work with survivors of domestic violence in a trauma-informed and survivor-centered manner. This requirement is overdue for an update - Hawai'i has one of the lowest training requirements in the nation, with most states requiring an average of 35 hours.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:19:24 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nancy Yang and I'm an OBGYN in training on Oahu. I'm privileged to be able to provide reproductive care primarily in Honolulu, but know first hand the very limited access to care for our outer island patients and even patients who live in more remote parts of Oahu. I have cared for many patients that have had to fly to Oahu for abortion care, but that is not a financially accessible option for many people. Having a reproductive care coordinator will not only improve access to abortions, but also general baseline OBGYN care. Just a few weeks ago, I took care of a patient from Big Island that could not get an appointment for her bleeding after a miscarriage because of how far she lived from a clinic with reproductive health providers. Her symptoms worsened while she was visiting Honolulu and she ended up receiving care in the ER. I strongly support HB 1343 because our patients deserve to be able to access care close to their homes and with affordable transportation, and we need a dedicated coordinator to improve our care system for this issue.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:21:05 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to help expand access to reproductive healthcare.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:23:59 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dani Mathisen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN in Hawaii and I know firsthand that access to abortion care on neighbor islands is a problem. We need to fix this.

but more importantly, I am a patient and a mother who desperately needed abortion care and had to travel out of state. I wouldn't have been able to afford it without help from my parents, a luxury not everyone has. Abortion is already limited by where you live and shouldn't be further limited by how much is in your wallet. Getting an abortion is much more sustainable than delivering and having both a hospital bill and a child to support with government funding.

HB1343: RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS

House Committee on Human Services;

House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Feb. 7, 2023; 8:45am

I offer this testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1343**, which is the priority bill of the Hawai'i Abortion Collective (HAC). This bill is a necessary step to ensure all women, girls and pregnant people can readily access abortion.

There are no in-clinic elective abortion providers on Kaua 'i, Lana 'i, Moloka 'i, and only limited services on Hawai'i Island. This bill is a key step in expanding access, and Hawai'i would join a progressive trend in women-friendly states by focusing on health infrastructure to expand access. In 2022, California passed legislation (AB 1918) to establish a "reproductive health care corps" that would develop a robust medical workforce of abortion providers for unmet needs and underserved areas. Hawai'i should also build government infrastructure by investing in a place where non-profits and patients can go for abortion services, including medically accurate, non-judgmental information, insurance navigation, policy implementation, procedural training, abortion stigma intervention, and the full range of abortion procedures. Hawai'i would join a progressive trend in women-friendly states.

We need law changes like this bill that addresses the forced pregnancy crisis on neighbor islands. Please pass HB1343.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

Deja Ostrowski, Esq.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:41:17 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Faith Joyner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:21:25 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vera Zambonelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender equality in Hawai'i is not achievable without a significant investment in abortion care infrastructure.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:52:26 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassandra Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs John Mizuno and Della Au Belatti and Committees,

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of HB1343. Hawai‘i should build government infrastructure by investing in a place where non-profits and patients can go for abortion services, including medically accurate, non-judgmental information, insurance navigation, policy implementation, procedural training, abortion stigma intervention, and the full range of abortion procedures.

Mahalo,

Cassandra Chee
Chinatown

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:01:57 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in Hawaii and I know firsthand that access to abortion care on neighbor islands is a problem. This bill would help to fix this issue!

Thank you,

Sara Harris, MD

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:00:34 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in support of HB1343. I believe we on the neighbor islands deserve access to abortion.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 7, 2023

Re: SUPPORT for HB 1343, Relating to Reproductive Health Care Access

Dear Committee Members,

I offer this testimony in my personal capacity to strongly support HB 1343 which would increase access to abortion and other 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 impact of the 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 for more trained professionals and better coordinated services, 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, the limited number of medical providers trained in abortion care, travel, cost, and the stigma fueled by *Dobbs*.² Hawai‘i must respond by recommitting to safe and accessible abortion care as a normal part of pregnancy care.

HB 1343 provides essential coordination for existing services and expands training for eligible licensed healthcare professionals in comprehensive reproductive care including abortion care. HB 1343 has the potential to significantly change the landscape for healthcare access to neighbor island communities. Investing in reproductive health care infrastructure positively impacts the physical and mental health, economic independence, and safety of women and pregnant people, and it also strengthens all families and communities in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1343.

/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/>.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:10:34 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am an OBGYN and an abortion provider, I support this bill which can improve access to abortion care, particularly on our neighbor islands.

HB-1343

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:59:40 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1343.

No one is being denied access to healthcare unless this bill is defining "Healthcare" as abortion.

If so, I do not believe tax payer's money should be going to create a position to promote the taking of life. Tax dollars should go to helping sustain life.

Mahalo,

Lora Burbage