

SR-174

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 7:53:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen | Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORT** these resolutions! There is a huge amount of single use medical waste disposed of that could be reused without jeopardizing health, as the resolutions note is being done in California and Japan, thereby saving landfill capacity and reducing (on Oahu) toxic emissions and ash from burning plastics and other materials.

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **propose an amendment on page two line 1.** The Department of Health alone cannot be expected to reduce the use of disposable surgical equipment and adopt sustainable practices in the provision of health care services. Rather, these resolutions should read:

the Department of Health is requested to **encourage reductions in** ~~reduce~~ the use of disposable surgical equipment and **adoption of** ~~adopt~~ sustainable practices in the provision of health care services.

Please pass these resolutions in amended form!

Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 24, 2025

Testimony in Support of SR174/SCR194 - Reduce Disposable Surgical Equipment in Health Care Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Date: Friday, March 28, 2025 **Time:** 1:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii submits this testimony in strong support of SR174/SCR194, requesting the Department of Health to reduce the use of disposable surgical equipment and adopt sustainable practices in the provision of health care services, taking examples from California and Japan.

Key Points in Support:

1. **Environmental Impact:** Disposable surgical equipment contributes significantly to medical waste, much of which ends up in landfills or incinerators, exacerbating Hawaii's waste management challenges. Transitioning to sustainable practices can dramatically reduce the ecological footprint of the healthcare sector.
2. **Global Examples:** California has already made strides toward waste reduction in healthcare facilities through initiatives like reusable surgical gowns and instruments, which have reduced overall waste and saved costs in the long term. Japan has implemented similar practices, integrating sterilization technology to safely reuse medical equipment, setting an example of sustainability in healthcare.
3. **Economic Benefits:** While the initial investment in reusable surgical equipment may be higher, the long-term cost savings are significant. Reusable equipment reduces the need for constant procurement of disposable items and decreases waste disposal costs for hospitals and clinics.
4. **Public Health and Safety:** Sustainable healthcare practices promote a cleaner environment, which in turn supports public health. Reducing disposable waste minimizes the risks associated with improper waste disposal, such as contamination or pollution.

5. **Alignment with State Goals:** Supporting this resolution aligns with Hawaii's sustainability initiatives and its commitment to reducing waste and promoting responsible resource use. This effort also reflects Hawaii's role as a global leader in environmental stewardship.

We commend the Department of Health for leading this critical initiative and urge the committee to pass SR174/SCR194, enabling Hawaii's healthcare sector to become a model for sustainable practices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

SR-174

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 4:23:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SR-174

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 8:21:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa W. Chong | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this resolution to reduce single use items in the healthcare field. I appreciate that other states have adopted such measures and know Hawaii can follow the lead in showing states what is possible to reduce waste.

Thank you for letting me testify is SUPPORT.