

Stand with Our Wahine Pledge

State Elected Officials for the Right to Abortion in Hawai‘i

June 3, 2022

In Hawai‘i, a woman’s right to control her body was protected before *Roe vs. Wade* and will be protected after *Roe. vs. Wade*.

Hawai‘i was the first state to legalize abortion. This historic first did not occur in a vacuum but was part of a holistic effort to create a fair and supportive society for women. In the same effort and era, Hawai‘i became the first state to create a government agency for women’s rights—the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women—and, Hawai‘i’s own Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first Asian-American woman in Congress, opened the door to education for women by passing Title IX.

These policy landmarks are rooted in our cultures. Traditional birth practices, like those of kānaka ‘ōiwi, perpetuated a sacred respect for women. ‘Ōmilomilo (abortion) was practiced by ‘ōiwi practitioners prior to colonization. Women had the choice to “exercise control over decisions on when to have a child, how many children to have and how far apart they should be.”¹

The safety, bodily autonomy, and happiness of women and birthing people should not be controversial. It is not incompatible with religious practice. Women’s rights and māhū rights are part of who we are here in Hawai‘i.

Accordingly, I pledge to carry on the legacy of women’s rights forged by our ancestors, by Patsy Mink, and countless women leaders.

I pledge to protect and strengthen a woman’s right to her body.

Signed,

Governor David Ige
Lieutenant Governor Josh Green

Senate Vice President Michelle Kidani
Senate Majority Leader Dru Mamo Kanuha
Senate Majority Policy Leader Les Ihara Jr.
Senate Majority Floor Leader Lynn DeCoite
Senate Majority Whip Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Assistant Majority Whip Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Assistant Majority Whip Brian T. Taniguchi
Senator Laura Acasio

¹

Stand with Our Wahine Pledge

State Elected Officials for the Right to Abortion in Hawai‘i

June 3, 2022

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senator Stanley Chang
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Chris Lee
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senator Glenn Wakai

House Speaker Scott Saiki
House Majority Leader Della Au Belatti
House Majority Floor Leader Dee Morikawa
Representative Patrick Pihana Branco
Representative Linda Clark
Representative Luella Costales
Representative Sonny Ganaden
Representative Daniel Holt
Representative Linda Ichiyama
Representative Greggor Ilagan
Representative Jeanne Kapela
Representative Nicole E. Lowen
Representative Sylvia Luke
Representative Lisa Marten
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura
Representative Mark M. Nakashima
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto
Representative Takashi Ohno
Representative Amy A. Perruso
Representative Jackson D. Sayama
Representative Gregg Takayama
Representative Roy M. Takumi
Representative Adrian K. Tam
Representative David A. Tarnas
Representative Chris Todd
Representative Tina Wildberger