

Resolution

No. 22-168

SUPPORTING OUR KEIKI, WAHINE, AND
‘OHANA IN RESPONSE TO THE SUPREME
COURT VOTE ON OVERTURNING ROE V.
WADE

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* on June 24, 2022, overturned federal protections for reproductive freedom under *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, it is now more important than ever to create a society that protects and supports children and families; and

WHEREAS, women and families in Maui County and the State of Hawai‘i likely will not be significantly impacted by the Supreme Court decision due to strong protections for women’s reproductive rights under State law, but millions of girls, women, and families in other parts of the country will be directly and adversely impacted; and

WHEREAS, women living in poverty or in economically disadvantaged communities are disproportionately affected by tightened restrictions and onerous requirements that limit or criminalize access to reproductive health care; and

WHEREAS, women are 35 percent more likely than men to live in poverty, 35 percent of single women with children are raising their families in poverty, and this rate of poverty is even higher for Latin, Black, and Native American families; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau in 2020 reported over 16 percent of our nation’s children living in poverty, and an astonishing 44 percent of children experiencing “episodic” poverty for at least two consecutive months; and

WHEREAS, access to health care demonstrably improves women’s educational opportunities, employment prospects, and overall earning power; and

Resolution No. 22-168

WHEREAS, the United States does not have universal health care, including prenatal care, nor does it provide federal paid parental leave, universal pre-K education, mandatory comprehensive sex education, or guaranteed access to nutrition services, lactation services, formula, diapers, or other childcare necessities; and

WHEREAS, most families struggle with access to affordable child care, and women continue to carry a disproportionate amount of caregiving responsibilities which often prevents full participation in the workforce or the ability to pursue training and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, we should require prenatal child support, and allow child support petitions to be filed before the child is born; and

WHEREAS, while Hawai'i ranks relatively high in typical monthly child support payment amounts, several states are below \$500 per month, and in Hawai'i, minimum child support is only \$83 per month; and

WHEREAS, more needs to be done in the United States to support women and families, particularly in light of this country's dismal and unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality, childhood poverty, child hunger, female householder poverty, as well as income inequality, affordable-housing shortages, and other negative factors that demand our nation's focus and resources; and

WHEREAS, the institution of 'Ohana is the foundation of our society and our mothers and fathers are our first caregivers and teachers of family values and, as such must be recognized and supported to develop strong and healthy 'Ohana, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

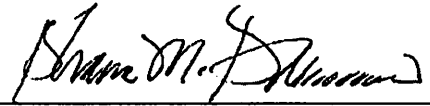
1. That it supports pro-family policies that lift children and families out of poverty and provide access to basic services such as health care, child care, food, housing, and education;
2. That it is committed to eradicating discrimination against women and gender inequality and to ensuring equal access to justice and representation under the law; and

Resolution No. 22-168

3. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women; and Jessica Crouse, Chair, Maui County Committee on the Status of Women.

paf:ans:22-102b

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci", written over a horizontal line.

SHANE M. SINENCI