



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Commitment to the Revitalization of Midwifery and the End of White Supremacy in Hawai'i

A Proclamation for International Day of the Midwife 2022

Whereas for-profit medicine and employer-based health coverage are incompatible with women's equality;

Whereas medical racism, sexism and classism exist throughout the American healthcare system including Hawai'i;

Whereas childbirth is a physical, emotional, and cultural process, not a medical event;

Whereas midwives particularly non-nurse midwives continue to be marginalized by the patriarchal, hierarchical American medical system;

Whereas white supremacy decimated midwifery and birthing support in Hawai'i;

Whereas provider shortages, high costs, long wait times for OBGYNs, mandatory prescriptions to acquire birth control, lack of access to abortion providers and to birth support continue to negatively impact reproductive justice and to necessitate midwifery in Hawai'i;

Whereas the Hawai'i population is majority Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Pacific Islander and Asian;

Whereas one in five residents in Hawai'i is foreign-born;

Whereas the majority of immigrants in Hawai'i are women;

Whereas there are at least 40,000 undocumented people in Hawai'i and immigration status is linked to low prenatal care utilization;

Whereas requests for homebirths by undocumented women sharply increased during the Trump administration according to the New York Times;

Whereas midwives create a more emotionally, physically, legally, and culturally safe environment for their patients;

Whereas women and birthing people will continue to seek out culturally appropriate care and birth outside of hospitals regardless the legal status of midwifery;

Whereas being pro-choice means supporting when and how women give birth including the choice to give birth outside of a hospital;

Whereas the 2018 Hawai'i midwifery law is extremely radical and does not allow adequate, accessible pathways to practice midwifery for the majority of prospective and current practitioners; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women that a thriving midwifery profession is recognized as necessary for women's equality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature is requested to enact legal reforms to enable greater access to midwifery and maternal care while protecting the public.

Signed,



Khara Jabola-Carolus, J.D.
Executive Director