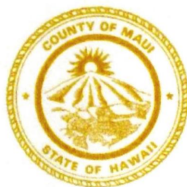


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



**COUNTY OF MAUI
COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN**
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January 16, 2024

Hawaii State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM THE MAUI COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Support for Amendments to Act 32, HRS 457-J

The Maui County Committee on the Status of Women ("MCCSW") is a seven-member volunteer group of mayoral appointees that advocates for social justice, educates women on their rights, educates women to vote, engages in political processes, gathers information on women's issues, promotes women's equality, and serves as a resource for women through programming, public education, and citizen participation.

Over the course of the last two years, the MCCSW has received testimony and presentations relating to Act 32, signed into law on April 30, 2019 and titled "Relating to the Licensure of Midwives." During the 2021 legislative session, the MCCSW transmitted two letters in support of proposed amendments to Act 32. Copies of these letters are enclosed here for reference.

The MCCSW understands that by establishing a mandatory regulatory process for the midwifery procession, the bill intended to protect the health and safety of mothers and newborns. The MCCSW does not wish to diminish the importance of such safety or the intentions of the bill and recognizes the physical and emotional vulnerabilities pregnant women, new mothers, and newborns