



# Hawaii



**Overall Landscape:** Hawaii has enacted significant improvements in Medicaid telehealth coverage but notably does not provide coverage for audio-only services. As the island state, Hawaii presents unique abortion access issues that make telehealth a vital strategy for combating geographic isolation and provider shortages.

## How Does Hawaii Medicaid Define Telehealth?

Hawaii Medicaid defines telehealth as “the use of telecommunications services” including real-time video interactions, asynchronous store and forward, remote patient monitoring, and mobile health, “for the purpose of delivering enhanced health care services and information.”

## Are There Restrictions On Where The Patient Can Be Located?

No – Hawaii Medicaid defines the originating site (the patient’s location) as “the location where the patient is located,” which allows maximum flexibility for the patient.

## Does Hawaii Medicaid Have Payment Parity For Telehealth Services?

Yes, Hawaii Medicaid has payment parity that requires reimbursement for telehealth services to be “equivalent to reimbursement for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between a health care provider and patient.”

## What Are Covered Modalities In Hawaii Medicaid?

Hawaii Medicaid covers the following modalities:

- Synchronous Video: Yes
- Synchronous Audio-Only: No
- Store-And-Forward: Yes
- Remote Patient Monitoring: Yes
- Mobile Health: Yes

## Can A Provider Establish A Relationship With A Patient Via Telehealth?

Yes but the Hawaii statute is specific to physicians so it is unclear if advanced practice clinicians are authorized to use telehealth to establish a relationship with new patients.

## What Is The State Of Abortion Access In Hawaii?

While Hawaii has no major restrictions on abortion access, most of the state’s providers are located in major cities like Honolulu or Maui and individuals located in rural areas or on smaller islands with no provider may face significant access issues. Forty percent of counties in Hawaii do not have at least one clinic that provides abortion care, according to 2017 data analyzed by the Guttmacher Institute.

## Who Can Provide Abortion Care In Hawaii?

Hawaii allows advanced practice registered nurses to provide abortion care, in addition to physicians.