

JAN 22 2010

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PREMATURE INFANT HEALTH CARE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§321- Educational information about premature  
5 infants' risks and healthcare needs. (a) Not later than July  
6 1, 2011, the department of health shall prepare written  
7 educational information about newborn infants who are born  
8 premature at less than thirty-seven weeks gestational age, which  
9 shall include:

- 10 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born  
11 premature;  
12 (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as  
13 developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care  
14 services available to premature infants through the  
15 medicaid program and other public or private health  
16 programs;



1       (3) Vaccines and other preventive measures to protect  
2       premature infants from infectious diseases; and

3       (4) The emotional and financial burdens and other  
4       challenges experienced by a premature infant's family,  
5       and information about community resources available to  
6       support family members.

7       (b) The publications shall be written in language  
8       appropriate for a wide socioeconomic range of parents of  
9       premature infants and shall be updated every two years. In  
10       preparing the information, the department of health may consult  
11       with community organizations that focus on premature infants or  
12       pediatric healthcare.

13       (c) The department of health shall distribute these  
14       publications to medical organizations including any health care  
15       facility or health care provider that provides medical care to  
16       newborns, children's health care providers, maternal health care  
17       providers, and community health centers. The department of  
18       health shall encourage each organization to distribute the  
19       publications to the parents or guardians of a premature infant.

20       (d) For purposes of this section:

21       "Health care facility" includes any program, institution,  
22       place, building, or agency, or portion thereof, private or



1 public, other than federal facilities or services, whether  
2 organized for profit or not, used, operated, or designed to  
3 provide medical diagnosis, treatment, nursing, rehabilitative,  
4 or preventive care to any person or persons. The terms include  
5 health care facilities and health care services commonly  
6 referred to as hospitals, outpatient clinics, organized  
7 ambulatory health care facilities, emergency care facilities and  
8 centers, home health agencies, health maintenance organizations,  
9 and others providing similarly organized services regardless of  
10 nomenclature.

11 "Health care providers" means health care facilities,  
12 physicians licensed under chapter 453, and nurses licensed under  
13 chapter 457.

14 §321- Patient Discharge Information. (a) Any  
15 hospital that provides medical care for newborns shall provide  
16 the parents of the newborn with written educational material  
17 containing information about newborn infants who are born  
18 premature at less than thirty-seven weeks gestational age. The  
19 written information shall at a minimum include:

20 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born  
21 premature;



1       (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as  
2       developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care  
3       services available to premature infants through the  
4       medicaid program and other public or private health  
5       programs;

6       (3) Infectious disease awareness and methods to prevent or  
7       minimize infections common to premature infants; and

8       (4) Community resources to assist parents and family  
9       members with the care and support of premature  
10       infants.

11       (b) The materials shall be:

12       (1) Updated at least every two years;

13       (2) Written in clear language to educate a wide  
14       socioeconomic range of parents of premature infants;  
15       and

16       (3) Approved by the department of health.

17       (c) For the purpose of this section:

18       "Hospital" includes:

19       (1) An institution with an organized medical staff,  
20       regulated under section 321-11(10), that admits  
21       patients for inpatient care, diagnosis, observation,  
22       and treatment; and



1        (2) A health facility under chapter 323F.

2        "Medical care" means every type of care, treatment,  
3 surgery, hospitalization, attendance, service, and supplies as  
4 the nature of the injury or condition requires.

5        "Parent" includes a biological mother or father, foster  
6 mother or foster father, adoptive mother or adoptive father, and  
7 stepmother or stepfather."

8        SECTION 2. (a) The department of health, in consultation  
9 with statewide organizations focused on premature infant health  
10 care, shall:

11        (1) Develop a plan to improve hospital discharge and follow-  
12 up care procedures for premature infants born earlier  
13 than thirty-seven weeks gestational age to ensure  
14 standardized and coordinated processes are followed as  
15 premature infants leave the hospital from either a well  
16 baby nursery, step-down or transitional nursery, or  
17 neonatal intensive care unit, and transition to follow-up  
18 care by a health care provider in the community;

19        (2) Request hospitals serving infants eligible for medical  
20 assistance and child health assistance to report to the  
21 department of health the causes and incidence of all  
22 rehospitalizations of infants born premature at less than



1 thirty-seven weeks gestational age within their first six  
2 months of life; and

- 3 (3) Use guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
4 Services' Neonatal Outcomes Improvement Project to  
5 implement programs to improve newborn outcomes, reduce  
6 newborn health costs, and establish ongoing quality  
7 improvement for newborns.

8 (b) The department of health shall submit a report to the  
9 legislature not less than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
10 2011 regular session that shall include:

11 (1) The plan developed by the department to improve care  
12 for premature infants;

13 (2) Data regarding the incidence and cause of  
14 rehospitalization in the first six months of life for  
15 infants born premature at earlier than thirty-seven weeks  
16 gestational age;

17 (3) Recommendations for improving the care of premature  
18 infants; and

19 (4) Any proposed legislation to implement the  
20 recommendations.



# S.B. NO. 2382

1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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**Report Title:**

Premature Infants; Hospital Discharge and Follow-up Procedure

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to develop a plan to improve hospital discharge and follow-up care procedures for premature infants born earlier than 37 weeks gestational age to ensure standardized and coordinated processes are followed as premature infants leave the hospital.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

