
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature established a perinatal clinic,
2 Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii, as a three-year pilot
3 project in 2006 in response to the high rate of methamphetamine
4 use by pregnant women. The clinic provides comprehensive
5 prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care and social services to
6 women who have a history of substance use. Since it was
7 established, the clinic has been successful in engaging this
8 difficult-to-reach population of women. It supports them in
9 decreasing their substance use and helps them deliver healthy
10 infants that they are capable of parenting. Despite the high
11 average cost of medical care for a single very low weight infant
12 in its first year of life -- over \$200,000 -- the clinic is cost-
13 effective. However, this highly successful clinic is not
14 sustainable without funding from the State.

15 The Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii clinic provides
16 its patients with prenatal care that addresses their addictions
17 in a small, dedicated, nonjudgmental setting. Patients are also
18 provided with social service support, parenting education, and



1 transportation. Since its creation, Perinatal Addiction
2 Treatment of Hawaii has cared for over one hundred eighty women,
3 and it is expected to provide services to over sixty women with
4 addictions in 2011.

5 The legislature initially appropriated \$400,000. Because of
6 funding delays, only one year, from April 2007 to June 2008, was
7 funded. Act 147, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, provided \$200,000
8 for the period from July 2008 to August 2009. In March 2009, the
9 Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii clinic was awarded a
10 grant from the department of health to provide perinatal support
11 services and triage, but due to budget restrictions, the grant
12 was not funded. The clinic has continued to provide services
13 through individual donations and small grants made to its tax-
14 exempt charitable social service agency.

15 While Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii is not a
16 substance abuse treatment program, its unique integration of
17 prenatal, clinical, and social services results in a cessation of
18 substance use in most women. It also assists some women to
19 recognize that they require residential substance abuse
20 treatment and facilitates their admission into an appropriate
21 program.



1 Since its creation, the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of
2 Hawaii pilot project has achieved the following results:

3 (1) The effects of substance use and the associated risk
4 factors (i.e., poverty, homelessness, interpersonal
5 violence, tobacco and alcohol use, and co-occurring
6 medical and behavioral health illness) on birth
7 outcomes were largely ameliorated by the prenatal care
8 at the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii clinic;

9 (2) Patients in the program were overwhelmingly likely to
10 stop using drugs, deliver healthy infants, maintain
11 custody, choose a long-term birth control method, and
12 choose to work on or develop skills six months after
13 delivery;

14 (3) While infants born to women who received services at
15 Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii were four to
16 five times more likely to suffer preterm birth and low
17 birth weight, the birth outcomes at Perinatal Addiction
18 Treatment of Hawaii were consistent with state and
19 national averages for all births;

20 (4) Eighty per cent of women treated at Perinatal
21 Addiction Treatment of Hawaii became abstinent from
22 drugs and over ninety per cent significantly decreased



- 1 substance use within eight weeks of using Perinatal
2 Addiction Treatment of Hawaii services;
- 3 (5) Ninety-four per cent of women treated were tested to
4 be substance-free at the time of birth;
- 5 (6) Of the women who had positive drug tests at the time
6 of birth, over half chose to enter a residential
7 substance abuse treatment program, often noting that
8 their experience at Perinatal Addiction Treatment of
9 Hawaii contributed to their readiness to accept
10 treatment;
- 11 (7) Ninety-six per cent of women treated maintained
12 custody of their infants eight weeks after delivery
13 (fifty-seven per cent had previously lost custody of
14 at least one child); and
- 15 (8) The nine-month repeat pregnancy rate for women who
16 maintained custody of their infants was lower than
17 state and national averages; fifty per cent of the
18 women who lost custody of their infants were pregnant
19 again within nine months of having given birth.

20 Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii is a comprehensive
21 perinatal addiction clinic that integrates prenatal and
22 postpartum obstetric clinical services, addiction medicine



1 services, and social services. The state medicaid program is
 2 billed for allowable clinical services. Although funding sources
 3 are available for medical services, essential social services
 4 that are provided by the clinic remain unfunded. State moneys
 5 are needed to fund these services.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to continue
 7 the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii pilot program.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
 10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the
 11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 12 2012-2013 for the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii clinic
 13 for case management and other social services that it provides.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 15 of health for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. The moneys appropriated by this Act shall be
 17 used for:

- 18 (1) Case management of pregnant and recently delivered (up
 19 to six months) women struggling with substance use,
 20 including alcohol, to be provided by a master's degree
 21 level social worker or nurse experienced in the area
 22 of substance abuse treatment;



- 1 (2) Addiction medicine services that may not be medicaid
- 2 funded;
- 3 (3) Therapeutic childcare during clinic appointments and
- 4 classes or activity groups;
- 5 (4) Transportation assistance to and from clinic
- 6 appointments and classes or activity groups;
- 7 (5) Group classes and activities to support women in
- 8 achieving their goals of giving birth to healthy
- 9 infants that they are capable of parenting; and
- 10 (6) Administrative support to provide a dedicated space,
- 11 integration of services, and support of education and
- 12 research in the area of effective treatment of
- 13 perinatal addiction.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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Report Title:

Perinatal Care; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the continued operation of the Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii program and clinic.

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