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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama  
2 signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
3 of 2010, also known as the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148).  
4 The Affordable Care Act added section 511 to title V of the  
5 Social Security Act to create the Maternal, Infant, and Early  
6 Childhood Home Visiting Grant program to support development and  
7 implementation of evidence-based home visiting program models by  
8 states and other eligible entities.

9           Home visiting is a prevention strategy used by states and  
10 communities to improve the health and well-being of women,  
11 children, and families at risk for adverse health and safety  
12 concerns, including child abuse and neglect. Early investments  
13 in home visiting programs have been shown to reduce costs  
14 associated with foster care placements, hospitalizations,  
15 emergency room visits, unintended pregnancies, and other more  
16 costly outcomes and interventions.



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish a program within  
2 the department of health for hospital-based screening and home  
3 visiting services for newborns' families. Establishment of  
4 Hawaii's home visiting program will position the department of  
5 health to participate in the federal grant program, and thereby  
6 improve the health and safety of eligible families.

7           SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to part XXV to be appropriately  
9 designated and to read as follows:

10           "§321- Hawaii home visiting program; established. (a)

11 There is established within the department of health the Hawaii  
12 home visiting program, which shall be responsible for statewide  
13 hospital-based screening and home visiting services to identify  
14 families of newborns at risk for poor health and safety  
15 outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy  
16 child development and strengthen families.

17           (b) Within the limits of available funds, the hospital-  
18 based screening and home visiting services program shall:

19           (1) Provide proactive, universal screening of newborns'  
20 families, using one or more screening tools validated  
21 for identifying levels of risk for poor health and



- 1           safety outcomes and child abuse and neglect as
- 2           designated by the department of health;
- 3       (2) Refer high-risk families to Hawaii home visiting
- 4           program providers who shall employ evidence-based
- 5           models of service; and
- 6       (3) Consider as a high priority, families at risk for poor
- 7           health outcomes, child abuse, or neglect."

8           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii tobacco  
9 settlement special fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of  
10 \$3,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2012-2013 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

12           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
13 health for the purposes of this Act.

14           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 2013.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Home Visiting Program

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system. Appropriates \$3,000,000 out of the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Effective June 30, 2013. (HB908 CD1)

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

