
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFANT MORTALITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Infant mortality, or deaths to infants during
2 the first year of life and measured as the rate of infant deaths
3 per one thousand live births, has long been understood to be a
4 reflection of how well society takes care of its most vulnerable
5 population. Infant mortality is a multifactorial phenomenon,
6 with rates reflecting a society's commitment to the provision of
7 high quality health care, adequate food and good nutrition, safe
8 and stable housing, a healthy psychosocial and physical
9 environment, and sufficient income to prevent impoverishment.
10 As such, the ability to prevent infant deaths and to address
11 long-standing disparities in infant mortality rates among
12 population groups is a barometer of society's commitment to the
13 health and well-being of all women, children, and families.

14 Because of its multifactorial nature, risk factors for
15 infant mortality include factors related to women's health a
16 year prior to conception and pregnancy, factors related to the
17 pregnancy experience, factors associated with the birth and
18 newborn experience, and factors associated with the child's



1 health and well-being in the first year of life. Thus, there
2 are many points of intervention and approaches for reducing
3 infant mortality. Approaches are as disparate as expanding
4 access to primary care or family planning prior to pregnancy,
5 perinatal support services for screening and interventions to
6 prevent substance abuse, high quality prenatal care, specialty
7 treatments for preterm or sick infants, parent-family support
8 services, immunizations, and safe housing and healthy
9 neighborhoods.

10 Reducing the rate of infant mortality has received
11 significant national attention in recent years. The infant
12 mortality rate has remained relatively constant since 2000
13 despite declines in prior years. In 2009, Hawaii's infant
14 mortality rate was 5.9 deaths per one thousand births, well
15 behind many other industrialized nations. Preterm births and
16 infant losses are enormous costs to families, health care
17 systems, schools, and national prosperity. The Institute of
18 Medicine estimates that preterm births in the United States had
19 an annual societal economic cost of approximately
20 \$26,200,000,000 in 2005.

21 A comprehensive public policy to address infant mortality
22 and eliminate disparities is a public health priority.



1 Improving life-long health outcomes for women and families are
2 also essential for quality health care in the community.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Establish a comprehensive maternal and child health
5 quality improvement program and Hawaii maternal and
6 child health quality improvement collaborative within
7 the department of health; and

8 (2) Require the department of health to develop and
9 publish a statewide comprehensive maternal and child
10 health quality improvement strategic plan.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding three new sections to part XXV to be
13 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14 "§321- Comprehensive maternal and child health quality
15 improvement program; established. (a) The department of health
16 shall establish, administer, and maintain a statewide
17 comprehensive maternal and child health quality improvement
18 program.

19 (b) The goals of the comprehensive maternal and child
20 health quality improvement program shall be to:

21 (1) Improve statewide coordination of infant mortality
22 reduction planning and oversight;



1 (2) Oversee the implementation of evidence-based health
2 practices; and

3 (3) Generally and comprehensively address social
4 determinants of health and other demonstrated factors
5 that contribute to reducing infant mortality.

6 **§321- Hawaii maternal and child health quality**
7 **improvement collaborative; established.** (a) There is
8 established within the department of health for administrative
9 purposes the Hawaii maternal and child health quality
10 improvement collaborative.

11 The collaborative shall:

12 (1) Approve the maternal and child health quality
13 improvement strategic plan as specified in section
14 321- ;

15 (2) Advise the maternal and child health quality
16 improvement program on how best to meet the goals and
17 objectives of the strategic plan;

18 (3) Provide recommendations to the department of health on
19 improving the quality, availability, and coordination
20 of services of the maternal and child health quality
21 improvement program; and



1 (4) Promote collaboration among public agencies and
2 private stakeholders to reduce infant mortality in the
3 State.

4 (b) The collaborative shall consist of interested parties
5 to include:

6 (1) Thirteen voting members, appointed by the governor,
7 who shall reflect geographic diversity and the diverse
8 interests of stakeholders, including consumers,
9 employers, insurers, and health care providers;

10 (2) The director of health or the director's designee, who
11 shall serve as an ex-officio, voting member; and

12 (3) The director of human services, or the director's
13 designee, who shall serve as an ex-officio, voting
14 member.

15 (c) The department shall convene public and private
16 entities and agencies involved in the reduction of infant
17 mortality.

18 (d) Members shall serve without compensation but shall be
19 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary
20 for the performance of their duties.

21 **§321- Comprehensive maternal and child health quality**
22 **improvement strategic plan; social determinants of health focus.**



1 (a) The department of health shall develop and publish a
2 statewide comprehensive maternal and child health quality
3 improvement strategic plan to reduce infant mortality in the
4 State. The department shall publish the initial strategic plan
5 no later than January 1, 2016.

6 (b) The plan shall include strategies to address social
7 determinants of health as they relate to reducing infant
8 mortality.

9 (c) Perinatal core measure set data gathered and analyzed
10 in section 321- shall inform policy recommendations.

11 (d) The department of health shall present the strategic plan
12 to the Hawaii maternal and child health quality improvement
13 collaborative for its approval. Upon approval, the strategic
14 plan shall guide policy development related to infant mortality
15 reduction in Hawaii."

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding two new sections to part XXVI to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 "§321- Provider responsibilities. (a) Each hospital
20 within the State shall establish written policies regarding
21 inductions of newborn deliveries or cesarean sections that are
22 not medically indicated prior to thirty-nine weeks of gestation



1 following guidelines adopted by the American College of
2 Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

3 **§321- Reporting requirements; health care providers.**

4 Each licensed birthing facility in the State shall report to the
5 department of health, in a manner and at intervals determined by
6 the department, the perinatal core measure set data that is
7 required to be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and
8 Medicaid Services, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
9 Hospital Organizations, or both."

10 SECTION 4. Section 321-323, Hawaii Revised Statutes is
11 amended by adding the definition of "social determinants of
12 health" to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

13 "Social determinants of health" means the conditions in
14 which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including the
15 health system; provided that these conditions are attributable,
16 in large part, to health inequities and avoidable differences in
17 health status among demographic groups."

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
21 purposes of this Act, including the hiring of necessary staff.



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

3 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



Report Title:

Infant Mortality; Maternal and Child Health; Program;
Collaborative; Strategic Plan

Description:

Establishes a Comprehensive Maternal and Child Health Quality Improvement Program and Hawaii Maternal and Child Health Quality Improvement Collaborative within the Department of Health. Requires the Department of Health to develop and publish a strategic plan on maternal and child health quality improvement. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB2040 HD1)

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