
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFANT MORTALITY PROGRAM.

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

PART I

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

5 "§321-A Comprehensive infant mortality reduction program;
6 established. (a) The department of health shall establish,
7 administer, and maintain a statewide, comprehensive infant
8 mortality reduction program. The department shall convene for
9 planning purposes and provide assistance to entities and
10 agencies, public and private, involved in the reduction of
11 infant mortality rates.

12 (b) It shall be a goal of the department of health to:

13 (1) Improve statewide coordination of infant mortality
14 reduction planning and oversight;

15 (2) Oversee the implementation of evidence-based
16 practices;

17 (3) Adopt rules and establish policies to reduce infant
18 mortality rates; and



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

4 §321-B Hawaii infant mortality reduction advisory board,
5 established. (a) There is established within the department of
6 health for administrative purposes the Hawaii infant mortality
7 reduction advisory board that shall be comprised of fifteen
8 members, thirteen of whom are to be appointed by the governor,
9 with the advice and consent of the senate, pursuant to section
10 26-34. Members shall serve staggered terms of two years each so
11 that the terms of no more than five members expire each year.

12 (b) The membership of the board shall reflect geographic
13 diversity and the diverse interests of stakeholders, including
14 consumers, employers, insurers, and healthcare providers. The
15 director of health and the director of human services shall be
16 ex-officio, voting members of the board.

17 (c) The advisory board shall be responsible for:
18 (1) Approving the statewide biannual strategic plan
19 updated every three years to reduce infant mortality;
20 (2) Advising the comprehensive infant mortality reduction
21 program on how best to meet the goals and objectives
22 of the infant mortality reduction strategic plan;

1 (3) Providing recommendations to the comprehensive infant
2 mortality reduction program on improving the quality,
3 availability, and coordination of the services of the
4 comprehensive infant mortality reduction program; and

5 (4) Promoting collaboration among public agencies and
6 private stakeholders to reduce infant mortality in the
7 State.

8 (d) Members shall serve without compensation.

9 §321-C Infant mortality reduction strategic plan; social

10 determinants of health focus. (a) The department shall develop
11 and publish a statewide, comprehensive infant mortality
12 reduction strategic plan to reduce infant mortality in the
13 State. The department shall publish the initial strategic plan
14 no later than January 1, 2015. The department shall review,
15 revise, and publish an updated infant mortality reduction
16 strategic plan three years following the date of the initial
17 strategic plan, and every three years thereafter.

18 (b) The plan shall include strategies to address social
19 determinants of health as they relate to infant mortality.

20 (c) The public shall have the opportunity to provide input
21 relating to the infant mortality reduction strategic plan
22 pursuant to chapter 91.



1 (d) The department shall present the strategic plan to the
2 Hawaii infant mortality reduction advisory board for its
3 approval. Upon approval, the strategic plan shall guide all
4 policy development related to the reduction of infant mortality
5 in Hawaii."

6 **PART II**

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

10 **"§321-D Patient education; provider responsibilities. (a)**

11 Each facility shall distribute at least annually to all staff
12 and providers with admitting privileges at that facility a copy
13 of its written policies, adopted pursuant to section 321-C,
14 prohibiting non-medically indicated induction of newborn
15 deliveries prior to thirty-seven weeks of gestation.

16 (b) The department shall produce and distribute factual
17 and scientific educational information addressing infant
18 mortality, including pre-term birth, to all facilities.

19 (c) Each facility shall provide to a pregnant woman upon
20 admission, factual and scientific educational material,
21 including material produced and distributed by the department,
22 regarding infant mortality and pre-term birth unless deemed by



1 the attending physician to be unfeasible on account of the
2 pregnant woman's medical condition or other circumstances. Each
3 facility shall document the pregnant woman's receipt and
4 acknowledgement of the educational material for each admission.

5 **§321-E Reporting requirements; health care providers.** (a)
6 Beginning January 1, 2014, each licensed birthing facility in
7 the State shall report to the department, in a manner and at
8 intervals determined by the department by rules adopted pursuant
9 to chapter 91, information concerning pre-term birth.

10 (b) The report under subsection (a) shall contain, at a
11 minimum, the following information for each reporting period:

- 12 (1) The number of live births at the birthing facility;
- 13 (2) The number of incidents of pre-term birth at the
14 birthing facility;
- 15 (3) The medical and other causes that may have caused a
16 pre-term birth;
- 17 (4) Individual, de-identified patient demographic data;
- 18 (5) The number of patients admitted to the facility who
19 received factual and scientific educational material
20 regarding infant mortality and pre-term birth pursuant
21 to section 321-D; and



1 (6) Other information that the department specifies in
2 rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91."

3 **PART III**

4 SECTION 3. Section 321-323 is amended by adding two new
5 definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

6 "Infant mortality" means the risk of an infant dying
7 between birth and one year of age.

8 "Social determinants of health" means the conditions in
9 which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the
10 health system, provided that these conditions are attributable,
11 in large part, to health inequities and avoidable differences in
12 health status among demographic groups."

13 **PART IV**

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 to:

- 17 (1) Fund epidemiological and planning activities related
- 18 to infant mortality reduction;
- 19 (2) Collect and analyze Hawaii-specific infant mortality
- 20 data; and
- 21 (3) Identify social determinants of health as they relate
- 22 to infant mortality.



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

3 **PART V**

4 SECTION 5. The department of health shall convene a task
5 force that includes representation from the department of
6 health, birthing facilities in Hawaii, the Hawaii chapter of the
7 American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the
8 Healthcare Association of Hawaii. The task force shall collect
9 data about the number of elective pre-term deliveries in Hawaii.
10 The task force shall determine whether that number is so large
11 that it poses a public health threat. If it so finds, the task
12 force shall develop approaches and measures for addressing the
13 issue. The task force shall also collect the data needed to
14 determine whether Hawaii needs a point of care newborn screening
15 program. The task force shall submit a report to the
16 legislature of its findings and recommendations, including any
17 proposed legislation the task force deems necessary, no later
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
19 of 2014.

20 **PART VI**

21 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by sections
22 1 and 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute



1 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
2 the new sections in this Act.

3 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 8. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
5 on January 1, 2050; provided that parts I through IV shall take
6 effect on January 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Comprehensive Infant Mortality Reduction Program; Appropriation

Description:

Creates the Comprehensive Infant Mortality Reduction Program. Clarifies the role of the Department of Health in establishing, administering, and maintaining a statewide, comprehensive infant mortality reduction program. Addresses departmental duty to provide information to facilities, and provides duty to provide patients and report to departments, certain birth information. Appropriates unspecified funds. Creates a task force that is to be convened by the department of health to study and make recommendations on elective pre-term deliveries and point of care newborn screening. Takes effect January 1, 2050. Parts I through IV of the Act take effect January 1, 2015. (SD1)

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