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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATH REVIEWS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that comprehensive  
2 multidisciplinary reviews of child deaths, as performed in the  
3 past by the Hawaii child death review system that was  
4 established by Act 369, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, are needed  
5 to understand risk factors for and prevent future child deaths  
6 and keep children in the State of Hawaii safe and healthy, by  
7 producing in-depth, accurate, and timely administration of child  
8 health and protection programs and appropriate data reporting to  
9 federal and state agencies.

10           However, the legislature finds that the system has been  
11 inactive since 2011 and consequently, these important child  
12 death reviews are not currently being conducted in the State of  
13 Hawaii. The legislature notes that the child death review  
14 system is codified under chapter 321, part XXVII, Hawaii Revised  
15 Statutes, and is not mandatory.

16           Similarly, comprehensive multidisciplinary reviews of  
17 maternal deaths are needed to understand risk factors for and



1 prevent the deaths of mothers during pregnancy, labor, and the  
2 year following the birth of a child, and to inform policy making  
3 and the establishment and administration of relevant programs.  
4 However, the legislature finds that Hawaii does not currently  
5 conduct such reviews of maternal deaths.

6 The legislature additionally finds that comprehensive  
7 reviews of child and maternal deaths are a matter of ongoing  
8 concern. Because the program of reviews must be sustainable,  
9 the legislature recognizes the need to provide funding to  
10 conduct child and maternal death reviews not only in the current  
11 biennium, but in subsequent biennia as well.

12 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the legislature  
13 receives appropriate information about child and maternal death  
14 reviews and to provide funding to the department of health to  
15 conduct child death reviews and to implement a program for the  
16 performance of maternal death reviews.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by adding a new section to part XXVII to be  
19 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

20 "§321- Child death review; reports. (a) The director  
21 shall submit an annual written report to the legislature no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
2 session on the status of child death reviews conducted by the  
3 department pursuant to section 321-341. The annual report shall  
4 include information about the department's child death review  
5 activities, if any, in the twelve month period prior to  
6 submission of the annual report; the total number of child  
7 deaths in Hawaii and the causes of those deaths; and the number  
8 of deaths of children in state custody and the causes of those  
9 deaths, during the calendar year prior to the year of submission  
10 of the annual report. The annual report may also include  
11 discussion of identifiable trends in child deaths and  
12 recommendations for system changes, including any proposed  
13 legislation.

14 (b) The director shall submit a copy of any other child  
15 death review report published by the department, including  
16 findings and recommendations resulting from such a review, to  
17 the legislature upon the report's publication."

18 SECTION 3. Chapter 324, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
20 designated and to read as follows:



1        §324- Maternal death review; reports. (a) The director  
2 of health shall submit an annual written report to the  
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 each regular session on the status of reviews of maternal deaths  
5 conducted by the department. The annual report shall include  
6 information about the department's maternal death review  
7 activities, if any, in the twelve month period prior to  
8 submission of the annual report, the total number of deaths of  
9 women while pregnant or within one year after a pregnancy in  
10 Hawaii, the causes of those deaths, and whether the causes of  
11 death were pregnancy related. The annual report may also  
12 include discussion of identifiable trends in maternal deaths and  
13 recommendations for system changes, including any proposed  
14 legislation.

15        (b) The director of health shall submit a copy of any  
16 other maternal death review report published by the department  
17 of health, detailing findings and recommendations resulting from  
18 such a review, to the legislature upon the report's  
19 publication."

20        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much



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1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
 2 department of health to conduct child death reviews in  
 3 accordance with chapter 321, part XXVII, Hawaii Revised  
 4 Statutes, and to implement a program for the performance of  
 5 maternal death reviews.

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

8 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Child and Maternal Death Reviews; Department of Health;  
Reporting; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of health to conduct child death reviews and implement a program to perform maternal death reviews. Requires the department of health to submit an annual report to the legislature relating to child and maternal deaths and death reviews in the State.

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

