
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 established by Act
4 369, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, are needed to understand risk
5 factors for and prevent future child deaths and keep children in
6 the State of Hawaii safe and healthy, by producing in-depth,
7 accurate, and timely administration of child health and
8 protection programs and appropriate data reporting to federal
9 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:

5 (1) The department's child death review activities, if
6 any, in the twelve month period prior to submission of
7 the annual report;

8 (2) The total number of child deaths in Hawaii and the
9 causes of those deaths; and

10 (3) The number of deaths of children in state custody and
11 the causes of those deaths, during the calendar year
12 prior to the year of submission of the annual report.

13 The annual report may also include discussion of identifiable
14 trends in child deaths and recommendations for system changes,
15 including any proposed legislation.

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



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

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

18 (b) The director of health shall submit a copy of any
19 other maternal death review report published by the department
20 of health, detailing findings and recommendations resulting from



1 such a review, to the legislature upon the report's
2 publication."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
6 department of health to conduct child death reviews in
7 accordance with chapter 321, part XXVII, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes, and to implement a program for the performance of
9 maternal death reviews.

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

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2070.



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. (HB1788 HD1)

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