
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 321-361, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[[]§321-361[]] **Definitions.** As used in this part, unless
4 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Audiologist" means a professional licensed in the State to
6 diagnose and treat hearing and balance functions of the human
7 audio-vestibular system.

8 "Deaf or hard of hearing" means any type and degree of
9 permanent hearing loss as assessed by a licensed audiologist or
10 physician specialized in hearing function.

11 "Department" means the department of health.

12 "Diagnostic audiologic evaluation" means an evaluation of
13 the sensitivity of a person's sense of hearing as assessed by a
14 licensed audiologist or physician specialized in hearing
15 function.

16 ~~["Hearing impaired infant" means an infant who has an~~
17 ~~impairment that is a dysfunction of the auditory system of any~~



1 ~~type or degree sufficient to interfere with the acquisition and~~
2 ~~development of speech and language skills.]~~

3 "Hearing screening" means objective procedures to detect
4 possible hearing loss and determine the need for diagnostic
5 audiologic and medical evaluations.

6 "Infant" means a child from birth to thirty-six months of
7 age.

8 [~~"Management" means the habilitation of the hearing-~~
9 ~~impaired infant.~~

10 ~~"Screening" means a test or battery of tests administered~~
11 ~~to determine the need for a professional examination.] "~~

12 SECTION 2. Section 321-362, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "§321-362 Duties. It shall be the duty and responsibility
15 of the department to:

- 16 (1) Establish, implement, and evaluate a statewide
17 [~~program for early identification of, and intervention~~
18 ~~for, hearing impairment in infants,] system for
19 hearing screening and diagnostic audiologic evaluation
20 to identify infants who are deaf or hard of hearing,
21 and for the referral to and enrollment in early~~



- 1 intervention services for infants who have been
2 identified as deaf or hard of hearing;
- 3 (2) Establish standards and guidelines for ~~[the]~~ hearing
4 screening, identification, diagnosis, intervention,
5 and monitoring of infants ~~[with hearing impairment and~~
6 ~~infants at risk for delayed onset of hearing~~
7 ~~impairment;]~~ who are deaf or hard of hearing, or have
8 been identified with a risk indicator for developing
9 delayed-onset or progressive hearing loss, or both;
- 10 (3) Develop a plan in conjunction with the department of
11 ~~[education's statewide center for students with~~
12 ~~hearing or visual impairments]~~ education to involve
13 the parents or guardians with the medical and
14 educational follow-up ~~[and management]~~ of infants who
15 have been identified as ~~[hearing impaired or at risk~~
16 ~~of delayed onset of hearing impairments;]~~ deaf or hard
17 of hearing, or who have identified with a risk
18 indicator for developing delayed-onset or progressive
19 hearing loss, or both; and
- 20 (4) Collect and analyze program data in relation to the
21 duties and responsibilities of the department."



1 SECTION 3. Section 321-362.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 " ~~[[§321-362.5]]—Screening for hearing impairment.~~

4 Hearing screening, diagnostic audiologic evaluation, and

5 intervention. (a) All newborn infants shall ~~[be screened for~~

6 ~~hearing impairment for early identification of children with~~

7 ~~hearing loss and for the promotion of their development of~~

8 ~~language and communication.]~~ receive a hearing screening to

9 allow early identification and intervention to maximize social,

10 emotional, and language outcomes for children who are deaf or

11 hard of hearing.

12 (b) The person in charge of each birthing facility caring

13 for newborn infants and the responsible physician attending the

14 birth of a newborn or the person assisting the birth of a child

15 not attended by a physician shall ensure that every infant in

16 the person's care ~~[be screened for hearing impairment.]~~ receives

17 a hearing screening. This section shall not apply if the

18 parent, guardian, or other person having custody or control of

19 the child objects to the hearing screening in writing on the

20 grounds that the hearing screening conflicts with their



1 religious beliefs. The written objection shall be made a part
2 of the infant's medical record.

3 (c) Birthing facilities [~~screening newborn infants for~~
4 ~~hearing impairment~~] shall report newborn hearing screening
5 results to the department [~~, for the purpose of the department~~
6 ~~ensuring a statewide system for the screening, diagnostic~~
7 ~~evaluation, and intervention for all newborn infants with~~
8 ~~hearing impairment.~~].

9 (d) Audiologists and physicians specialized in hearing
10 function performing diagnostic audiologic evaluations of infants
11 shall report diagnostic audiologic evaluation results as
12 determined by the department."

13 SECTION 4. Section 321-363, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "§321-363 Rules. The department shall adopt rules,
16 pursuant to chapter 91, necessary for the purposes of this part,
17 including but not limited to administration and quality of
18 newborn hearing screening; retention of records and related
19 data; reporting of [~~positive~~] hearing screening results;
20 reporting of diagnostic audiologic evaluation results; [~~and~~]
21 intervention for infants [~~with hearing impairment,~~] who have



1 been identified as deaf or hard of hearing; informing parents
2 about the purpose of hearing screening[+], diagnostic audiologic
3 evaluation, and intervention; and maintaining the
4 confidentiality of affected families."

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

New Born; Hearing Screening; Diagnostic Tests

Description:

Amends the Newborn Hearing Screening statute to mandate reporting of diagnostic audiologic evaluation results to improve hearing follow-up of infants. Updates definitions and terminology. (HB678 HD1)

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

