
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MATERNAL HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that maternal morbidity
2 rates in the United States are among the highest in the
3 developed world. Each year, more than fifty thousand women
4 suffer from complications in pregnancy or childbirth that have
5 serious consequences for the women's short- or long-term health.

6 The legislature further finds that there are disparities in
7 national maternal health outcomes that are not fully explained
8 by differences in prenatal care access, socioeconomic status, or
9 general physical health. A growing body of evidence indicates
10 that women of color are often treated unequally and unfairly in
11 the health care system. Studies show that implicit bias is
12 often a key factor driving unequal treatment and poorer health
13 outcomes for patients of color.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
15 perinatal implicit bias task force within the department of
16 human services.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
2 of human services a perinatal implicit bias task force to
3 examine existing implicit bias training programs and make
4 recommendations on establishing an effective perinatal implicit
5 bias training program.

6 (b) The task force shall consist of:

7 (1) A representative from the office of the governor, to
8 be appointed by the governor;

9 (2) A representative from the senate, to be appointed by
10 the president of the senate;

11 (3) A representative from the house of representatives, to
12 be appointed by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives;

14 (4) The director of health, or the director's designee;

15 (5) The director of human services, or the director's
16 designee;

17 (6) A representative of the Hawaii medical board, to be
18 appointed by the director of commerce and consumer
19 affairs;

20 (7) A representative from the university of Hawaii John A.
21 Burns school of medicine;



- 1 (8) A representative from the university of Hawaii college
2 of social sciences' department of women, gender, and
3 sexuality studies;
- 4 (9) A representative from the university of Hawaii
5 Thompson school of social work and public health's
6 office of public health studies; and
- 7 (10) A representative from each county, to be appointed by
8 the mayor of each county.
- 9 (c) The chairperson of the task force shall invite the
10 following individuals to become members of the task force:
- 11 (1) A representative from the Healthcare Association of
12 Hawaii;
- 13 (2) A representative from Na Puuwai;
- 14 (3) A representative from the American College of
15 Obstetricians and Gynecologists;
- 16 (4) A representative from each health care system
17 operating in the State, including The Queen's Health
18 System, Hawaii Pacific Health, Kaiser Permanente
19 Hawaii, federally qualified health centers, Native
20 Hawaiian health centers, and Tripler Army Medical
21 Center;



- 1 (5) At least one representative from an organization
2 representing health care providers with relevant
3 expertise on racialized or gendered health equity and
4 disparities; and
- 5 (6) Any other members, including representatives from
6 state agencies, stakeholders, or advocates, as
7 recommended by a majority of the task force.
- 8 (d) The task force shall select a chairperson from among
9 the members listed in subsection (b).
- 10 (e) Members of the task force shall serve without
11 compensation.
- 12 (f) The task force shall:
- 13 (1) Review all available research, studies, and models for
14 decreasing implicit biases in perinatal facilities in
15 the State;
- 16 (2) Conduct or initiate new studies as it deems necessary;
17 and
- 18 (3) Create a public awareness campaign to inform state
19 residents about implicit biases in maternal health
20 facilities.



1 (g) The task force may contract with a subject matter
2 expert or consultant to conduct studies as it deems necessary
3 for the purpose of recommending suggestions in the creation of a
4 perinatal implicit bias training program. Any contract executed
5 pursuant to this Act shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii
6 Revised Statutes; provided that the perinatal implicit bias task
7 force shall ensure transparency when executing the contract.

8 (h) The task force shall submit an interim report of its
9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

12 (i) The task force shall submit a final report of its
13 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
14 legislation, to the legislature no later than July 31, 2026.
15 The final report shall include:

- 16 (1) An analysis of the costs associated with implicit bias
17 training programs;
- 18 (2) Protocols for health care providers to address
19 maternal health disparities;
- 20 (3) A discussion of the racial, cultural, and gendered
21 disparities associated with maternal health care;



1 (4) Policy recommendations for decreasing implicit biases
2 within perinatal facilities; and

3 (5) A work plan that identifies the steps needed in the
4 next five years to reduce implicit biases in maternal
5 health care in the State.

6 (j) The task force shall cease to exist on July 31, 2026.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
10 the perinatal implicit bias task force to carry out its
11 activities pursuant to this Act, including the hiring of a
12 subject matter expert or consultant.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 human services for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
16 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
18 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
19 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
20 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
21 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund



1 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
2 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
3 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
4 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
5 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
6 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
7 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 8 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
9 serve the public interest; and
- 10 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
11 addressed by this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DHS; Perinatal Facilities; Health Care Professionals; Task Force; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Establishes a Perinatal Implicit Bias Task Force within the Department of Human Services to examine the existing implicit bias training programs and make recommendations. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

