

ACT 74

H.B. NO. 384

A Bill for an Act Relating to Vital Statistics Registration of Fetal Deaths.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. Section 338-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**“Sec. 338-9 Filing and preparation of death and fetal death certificates.**

(a) The person in charge of the disposition of the body shall file with the local agent of the department of health in the district in which the death or fetal death occurred, or a dead body was found, a certificate of death or fetal death within three days after the occurrence, except that reports of intentional terminations of pregnancy performed in accordance with section 453-16 may be deferred for up to one month.

(b) In preparing a certificate of death or fetal death the person in charge of the disposition of the body shall:

- (1) Obtain and enter on the certificate the personal data and other information pertaining to the deceased person required by the department from the person best qualified to supply them;
- (2) Present the certificate of death to the physician last in attendance upon the deceased, or to the coroner’s physician who shall thereupon certify the cause of death to his best knowledge and belief; present the certificate of fetal death to the physician, midwife, or other person in attendance at the fetal death, who shall certify the fetal death and such medical data pertaining thereto as he can furnish; fetal deaths of less than 16 weeks or intentional terminations of pregnancy performed in accordance with section 453-16 may be certified by a nurse or other employee based upon the physician’s records;
- (3) Notify immediately the appropriate local agent, if the death occurred without medical attendance, or if the physician last in attendance fails to sign the death certificate. In such event the local agent shall inform the local health officer, and refer the case to him for immediate investigation and certification of the cause of death prior to issuing a permit for burial, or other disposition of the body. When the local health officer is not a physician or when there is no such officer, the local agent may complete the certificate on the basis of information received from relatives of the deceased or others having knowledge of the facts.

If the circumstances of the case suggest that the death or fetal death was caused by other than natural causes, the local agent shall refer the case to the coroner for investigation and certification.

(c) A death certificate may be filed by the next of kin and accepted by the local agent without meeting the requirements set forth above when there has been a judicial finding and declaration by a court of record that a person is dead; provided, that there shall be attached to the death certificate the judgment, decision, order, or other document of a court of record adjudging the person to be dead.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.\*

\*Edited accordingly.

**SECTION 3.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
(Approved May 10, 1975.)