

ACT 12

H.B. NO. 899

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that alcohol consumption during pregnancy has been recognized as the leading preventable cause of birth defects and developmental disorders in the United States. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated one in eight women drink alcohol during pregnancy, placing their children at risk for a variety of developmental, cognitive, and behavioral issues.

The legislature also finds that as many as forty thousand babies are born in the United States each year with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, an umbrella term used to describe the range of physical and cognitive deficits, many of them lifelong, that may be experienced by persons whose mothers drank alcohol during pregnancy.

The purpose of this Act is to designate the month of September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month to promote public awareness of the risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§8- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month. The month of September shall be known and designated as “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month” to promote public awareness of the risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. This month is not and shall not be construed to be a state holiday.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 19, 2023.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.