
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that phthalates are a
2 family of chemicals widely used in a variety of consumer
3 products to soften plastics, such as plastic toys and baby
4 teethingers. In a medical setting, tubing, blood bags, and many
5 other products are made with polyvinyl chloride, which also
6 contains phthalates. Researchers report that regular contact
7 with phthalates through chewing on plastic toys may cause
8 hormonal damage in young children and increase the chances of
9 serious illness later in life. In 2006, San Francisco became
10 the first city in the United States to restrict phthalates in
11 consumer products. In 2007, California followed suit and became
12 the first state in the nation to ban children toys containing
13 toxic plastic softeners.

14 The legislature further finds that some companies are
15 limiting their use of products containing certain chemical
16 compounds in an effort to reduce their carbon imprint and to
17 improve the safety of their operations. For example, Dignity
18 Health, formerly known as Catholic Healthcare West, a large



1 hospital network consisting of forty-one hospitals in the United
2 States, advocates for polyvinyl chloride-free intravenous bag
3 products in its hospital network. Although the chemical
4 components, including phthalates, in polyvinyl chloride gives
5 products such as intravenous bags flexibility and pliability,
6 the potential harmful effects include chemical leaching into the
7 intravenous medication preparations and into patient blood
8 streams, and absorption of medication into the walls of the
9 bags. Other large national companies, such as Microsoft
10 Corporation, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., and
11 Wal-Mart have all committed to phase out their use of polyvinyl
12 chloride in packaging and move toward safer and healthier
13 alternatives.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a preference for
15 the procurement of polyvinyl chloride-free intravenous products
16 for the Hawaii health systems corporation.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§103D- Polyvinyl chloride-free intravenous products.

21 (a) To encourage the reduction of products containing chemicals
22 that may pose harmful effects to patients in state health



1 facilities and affiliates, the Hawaii health systems corporation
2 shall award contracts to the lowest responsible and responsive
3 bidders, with preference being given to intravenous products
4 that do not contain polyvinyl chloride. The corporation shall
5 adopt policies governing the preference for polyvinyl chloride-
6 free intravenous products for its regional systems to follow
7 accordingly.

8 (b) This section shall not apply when precluded by federal
9 requirements for competitive bidding or when its application
10 will disqualify the corporation from receiving federal funds or
11 aid."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

Phthalates; Polyvinyl Chloride; Procurement; Hawaii Health
Systems Corporation

Description:

Establishes a preference for the procurement of polyvinyl
chloride-free intravenous products for Hawaii health systems
corporation. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

