
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is well-
2 established that lead poisoning can cause permanent health
3 damage, including: intellectual disabilities; learning and
4 behavior problems; high blood pressure; damage to the brain,
5 nervous system, kidneys, and red blood cells; and, in severe
6 cases, coma or death. Even at low levels, lead exposure can
7 result in adverse health effects, especially in young children.
8 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the
9 effects of childhood lead poisoning are most effectively treated
10 through early intervention programs before the age of three.
11 Federal law requires that all medicaid-insured children be
12 tested for lead at one and two years of age. While the federal
13 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires all states
14 to offer early intervention services for children at risk for
15 developmental delays or disability before they are three years
16 of age, no mandate currently exists at the state level.



1 Though the reported number of children in Hawaii with
 2 elevated blood lead levels has decreased over time, elevated
 3 blood lead levels among children continue to be a concern.
 4 Presently, only twenty-five per cent of children in the State
 5 under the age of three are tested for lead, which means that the
 6 blood lead levels of the remaining seventy-five per cent of
 7 untested children are unknown and, consequently, untreated.

8 The purpose of this Act is to keep Hawaii's children safe
 9 from lead hazards and the effects of lead poisoning by requiring
 10 blood lead tests at for all children up to six years of age who
 11 reside in the State.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 13 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
 14 to read as follows:

15 **"PART . MANDATORY TESTING FOR LEAD POISONING**

16 **§321-A Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the
 17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Child" means a child from birth to six years of age.

19 "Department" means the department of health.

20 "Lead poisoning" means a medical condition in a child
 21 younger than six years of age in which the child has a blood



1 lead level that is at or higher than the blood lead reference
2 value established by the Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention.

4 **§321-B Duties.** It shall be the duty and responsibility of
5 the department to establish, implement, and evaluate a statewide
6 program for early identification of, and intervention for, lead
7 poisoning in children.

8 **§321-C At risk status; blood lead testing.** All children
9 in the State shall be considered at risk for lead poisoning and
10 shall receive blood lead testing according to the Early and
11 Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment guidelines for
12 children enrolled in medicaid.

13 **§321-D Duty of the primary care provider.** All licensed
14 primary care providers shall test children under their care for
15 lead poisoning as specified in section 321-C."

16 SECTION 3. In codifying the new sections added by section
17 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
18 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
19 the new sections in this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOH; Lead Poison Testing; Insurance

Description:

Requires the department of health to establish, implement, and evaluate a statewide program for early identification of, and intervention for, lead poisoning in children. Requires all children be tested for lead poisoning. Requires primary care providers to test children under their care for lead poisoning. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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