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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF  
STILLBIRTH.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, all  
2 products of conception require the reporting of either a fetal  
3 death or a live birth in the State; and  
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5 WHEREAS, birth certificates are not issued for stillbirths  
6 in Hawaii; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, United States Standard of Certificates of Birth,  
9 Death, and Fetal Death are mandated by federal law; and  
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11 WHEREAS, under the National Center for Health Statistics,  
12 reports of fetal deaths (US Standard Report of Fetal Death) are  
13 completed separately from certificates of birth (U.S. Standard  
14 Certificate of Live Birth) and certificates of death (U.S.  
15 Standard Certificate of Death); and  
16

17 WHEREAS, United States vital statistics are collected and  
18 published through a decentralized, cooperative system; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, in the United States, there is no federal birth  
21 registry, rather birth certificates are issued by the states,  
22 which are obligated under law to report annual vital statistics  
23 data to the federal government; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, there is not a required standard birth certificate  
26 document that states must issue to individuals, and as such,  
27 states may produce their own birth certificate documents for  
28 distribution to individuals; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, some states, including Colorado, Connecticut,  
31 Kansas, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania, issue certificates  
32 of stillbirth; and  
33



1 WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to issue birth  
2 certificates for stillbirths in the State for several factors,  
3 including:  
4

- 5 (1) According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
6 Prevention, stillbirth affects one in one hundred  
7 sixty births, and each year about twenty-four thousand  
8 babies are stillborn in the United States, the number  
9 of which affects a significant number of lives;  
10  
11 (2) The sheer number of stillbirths in the United States  
12 has a profound and long-lasting impact on bereaved  
13 parents, health care professionals, and loved ones;  
14  
15 (3) According to a November 18, 2021, journal article,  
16 "Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, and OCD After Stillbirth:  
17 A Systematic Review", by the National Institutes of  
18 Health, parents who experience stillbirth have a  
19 considerably higher risk of reporting symptoms of  
20 depression, anxiety, and PTSD compared with parents  
21 with live births;  
22  
23 (4) The experiences, process, and connection of parents to  
24 their unborn child through pregnancy and sometimes  
25 labor, delivery, and birth are the same for liveborn  
26 infants and stillborn infants;  
27  
28 (5) Having only a certificate of fetal death is a constant  
29 reminder of the death of a child, rather than the  
30 duration of life of a child; and  
31  
32 (6) A certificate of stillbirth would acknowledge and  
33 respect the existence of life and how fleeting it can  
34 sometimes be to the baby, parents, and loved ones;  
35 now, therefore,  
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
38 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
39 of 2022, that the Department of Health is requested to issue  
40 certificates of stillbirth; and  
41



# H.R. NO. 53

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
2 requested to issue a certificate of stillbirth to the parent or  
3 parents named on a fetal death certificate issued in the case of  
4 a stillbirth, upon request of the parent or parents; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
7 requested to assess the feasibility of issuing certificates of  
8 stillbirths in the State; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
11 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
12 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding  
13 the implementation of certificates of stillbirths in the State,  
14 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
15 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

19  
20  
21 OFFERED BY:

MAR - 9 2022

