

MAR 10 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

4
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

10
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



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1 WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to issue birth
2 certificates for stillbirths in the State for several factors,
3 including:
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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 Senate of the Thirty-first
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
39 that the Department of Health is requested to issue certificates
40 of stillbirth; and
41



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
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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
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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.
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OFFERED BY:  _____

