
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DOULAS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 **"CHAPTER**

5 **DOULAS**

6 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

7 "Certified doula" means an individual who has received a
8 certification to perform doula services from the Childbirth and
9 Postpartum Professional Association, Childbirth International,
10 DONA International, International Childbirth Education
11 Association, or an organization approved by the director.

12 "Client" means any person who receives doula services from
13 a certified doula.

14 "Department" means the department of commerce and consumer
15 affairs.

16 "Director" means the director of commerce and consumer
17 affairs.



1 "Doula" means a non-medical support person who provides
2 doula services for compensation or holds oneself out to the
3 public as a doula.

4 "Doula services" mean the provision of continuous non-
5 medical physical, emotional, and informational support to a
6 pregnant individual during pregnancy, labor, childbirth, and
7 postpartum periods. "Doula services" does not include the
8 provision of medical care.

9 § -2 **Registration required; certified doulas.** (a) A
10 person who provides doula services for compensation or
11 advertises or holds the person's self out as a certified doula
12 shall register with the department by filing an application for
13 registration on a form prescribed by the director and paying any
14 applicable fees established by the director.

15 (b) The director shall maintain a registry of certified
16 doulas who have met the requirements of this section and rules
17 adopted by the director. The director shall provide a link to
18 the registry on the department's website.

19 § -3 **Rights.** A certified doula registered under this
20 chapter may be present at all times during a client's labor and



1 childbirth, including during delivery and in any recovery rooms;
2 provided that the certified doula's presence:

3 (1) Has been requested by the client and the client has
4 not subsequently requested the certified doula to
5 leave;

6 (2) Does not violate any federal or state law or
7 regulation;

8 (3) Does not violate any rule or regulation of the
9 hospital, birthing center, or clinic where the labor
10 and childbirth is taking place; and

11 (4) Does not endanger the health or safety of the client,
12 the client's child, any medical professionals
13 providing health care services to the client, or any
14 patients at the hospital, birthing center, or clinic
15 where the client is undergoing labor and childbirth.

16 § -4 **Exemptions.** Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit
17 a person from providing care to a person's spouse, domestic
18 partner, parent, sibling, or child or providing uncompensated
19 emotional, physical, or informational support to an unrelated
20 pregnant individual; provided that the person does not advertise
21 or hold the person's self out as a certified doula.



1 § -5 **Rulemaking.** The director shall adopt rules
2 pursuant to chapter 91 as necessary to carry out the purposes of
3 this chapter."

4 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

5

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 434

Report Title:

Future Caucus; Doulas; Certified Doulas; Doula Services;
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Registry

Description:

Requires any person providing doula services for compensation or representing or advertising themselves as a certified doula to register with the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Establishes certain rights for certified doulas, including being present during delivery and in any recovery rooms, if requested by the client. Requires the Director to maintain a link to the registry on the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' website. Effective 1/1/2026.

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