

JAN 17 2025

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# 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.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "H. A. H.", written over a horizontal line.



**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.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

