

A Bill for an Act Relating to Handling Potentially Infectious Laundry from Hospitals and Sanatoriums.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. Section 49-7, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, is amended by amending paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) to read as follows:

“(b) Potentially infectious laundry shall be bagged and the bags tied securely by hospital or sanatorium personnel responsible directly to the institution’s medical authorities for the techniques and protective procedures used. The bags used shall be of solid or tightly woven material or of water soluble plastic approved by the department of health, and shall be securely tied.

“(c) If the bags are of solid or tightly woven material, when they are loaded on or unloaded from the commercial laundry’s trucks the loader shall wear a protective face mask and gown of a type approved by the hospital’s or tuberculosis sanatorium’s medical authorities. The mask and gown shall be laundered after each usage. The use of a mask and gown may be omitted if water soluble plastic bags are used.

“(d) No other laundry shall be carried in the trucks with the potentially infectious laundry unless such potentially infectious laundry is in water soluble plastic bags. The trucks used shall be of the closed panel type. They shall be periodically washed and disinfected as directed by duly authorized agents of the department of health.

“(e) Commercial laundry workers who handle the potentially infectious laundry in solid or tightly woven bags shall wear protective masks and gowns of a type approved by the hospital’s or sanatorium’s medical authorities. The laundry shall be placed directly in the washers from the bags. There shall be no shake out or sorting procedure carried on at the laundry prior to washing. All protective clothing and all laundry bags shall be laundered after each usage. If the potentially infectious laundry is in water soluble plastic bags, no protective clothing need be worn and the laundry shall be placed directly in the washers without opening the bags.”

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 5, 1967.)