
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERINATAL CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature established a perinatal clinic,
2 the Path Clinic, as a three-year pilot project in 2006 in
3 response to the high rate of methamphetamine use by pregnant
4 women. The clinic provides comprehensive prenatal, delivery,
5 and postpartum care and social services to women who have a
6 history of substance use. Since it was established, the clinic
7 has been successful in engaging this difficult-to-reach
8 population of women. It supports them in decreasing their
9 substance use and helps them deliver healthy infants that they
10 are capable of parenting. Despite the high average cost of
11 medical care for a single very low weight infant in its first
12 year of life -- over \$200,000 -- the clinic is cost-effective.
13 However, this highly successful clinic is not sustainable
14 without funding from the State.

15 The Path Clinic provides its patients with prenatal care
16 that addresses their addictions in a small, dedicated, and
17 nonjudgmental setting. Patients are also provided with social
18 service support, parenting education, and transportation. Since



1 its creation, the Path Clinic has cared for over one hundred
2 eighty women, and it is expected to provide services to over
3 sixty women with addictions in 2011.

4 The legislature initially appropriated \$400,000 for this
5 pilot project. Because of funding delays, only half of the
6 funds were expended. Act 147, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007,
7 authorized an appropriation of the remaining \$200,000 for fiscal
8 year 2007-2008. In March 2009, the Path Clinic was awarded a
9 grant from the department of health to provide perinatal support
10 services and triage, but due to budget restrictions, the grant
11 was not funded. The clinic has continued to provide services
12 through individual donations and small grants made to its tax-
13 exempt charitable social service agency.

14 While the Path Clinic is not a substance abuse treatment
15 program, its unique integration of prenatal, clinical, and
16 social services results in a cessation of substance use in most
17 women. It also assists some women to recognize that they
18 require residential substance abuse treatment and facilitates
19 their admission into an appropriate program.

20 Since its creation, the Path Clinic pilot project has
21 achieved the following results:



- 1 (1) The effects of substance use and the associated risk
2 factors (i.e., poverty, homelessness, interpersonal
3 violence, tobacco and alcohol use, and co-occurring
4 medical and behavioral health illness) on birth
5 outcomes were largely ameliorated by the prenatal care
6 at the Path Clinic;
- 7 (2) Patients in the program were overwhelmingly likely to
8 stop using drugs, deliver healthy infants, maintain
9 custody of their infants, choose a long-term birth
10 control method, and choose to work on or develop
11 skills six months after delivery;
- 12 (3) While infants born to women who received services at
13 the Path Clinic were four to five times more likely to
14 suffer preterm birth and low birth weight, the birth
15 outcomes at the Path Clinic were consistent with state
16 and national averages for all births;
- 17 (4) Eighty per cent of women treated at the Path Clinic
18 abstained from drug usage and over ninety per cent
19 significantly decreased substance use within eight
20 weeks of using Path Clinic services;
- 21 (5) Ninety-four per cent of women treated were tested to
22 be substance-free at the time of birth;



1 (6) Of the women who had positive drug tests at the time
2 of birth, over half chose to enter a residential
3 substance abuse treatment program, often noting that
4 their experience at the Path Clinic contributed to
5 their readiness to accept treatment;

6 (7) Ninety-six per cent of women treated maintained
7 custody of their infants eight weeks after delivery
8 (fifty-seven per cent had previously lost custody of
9 at least one child); and

10 (8) The nine-month repeat pregnancy rate for women who
11 maintained custody of their infants was lower than
12 state and national averages while fifty per cent of
13 the women who lost custody of their infants were
14 pregnant again within nine months of having given
15 birth.

16 The Path Clinic is a comprehensive perinatal addiction
17 clinic that integrates prenatal and postpartum obstetric
18 clinical services, addiction medicine services, and social
19 services. The state medicaid program is billed for allowable
20 clinical services. Although funding sources are available for
21 medical services, essential social services that are provided by



1 the clinic remain unfunded. State moneys are needed to fund
2 these services.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to continue
4 the Path Clinic pilot program.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2012-2013 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes, to the Path Clinic for case management and
11 other social services that it provides.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of health for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. The moneys appropriated by this Act shall be
15 used for:

- 16 (1) Case management for pregnant women and women who
17 recently delivered (up to six months) who are
18 struggling with substance abuse, including alcohol, to
19 be provided by a master's degree level social worker
20 or nurse experienced in the area of substance abuse
21 treatment;



- 1 (2) Addiction medicine services that may not be funded by
- 2 medicaid;
- 3 (3) Therapeutic childcare during clinic appointments and
- 4 classes or activity groups;
- 5 (4) Transportation assistance to and from clinic
- 6 appointments and classes or activity groups;
- 7 (5) Group classes and activities to support women in
- 8 achieving their goals of giving birth to healthy
- 9 infants that they are capable of parenting; and
- 10 (6) Administrative support to provide a dedicated space,
- 11 integration of services, and support of education and
- 12 research in the area of effective treatment of
- 13 perinatal addiction.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2117.



Report Title:

Perinatal Care; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the continued operation of the Path Clinic and the services it provides. Effective 7/1/2117. (SD2)

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