
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 PATH clinic provides comprehensive prenatal,
5 delivery, and postpartum care and social services to women who
6 have a history of substance use. Since it was established, the
7 clinic 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,
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. Because
5 of funding delays, only one year, from April 2007 to June 2008,
6 was funded. Act 147, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, provided
7 \$200,000 for the period from July 2007 to June 2008. In March
8 2009, the PATH Clinic was awarded a grant from the department of
9 health to provide perinatal support services and triage, but due
10 to budget restrictions, the grant was not funded. The PATH
11 Clinic has continued to provide services through individual
12 donations and small grants made to its tax-exempt charitable
13 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, choose a long-term birth control method, and
10 choose to work on or develop skills six months after
11 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 became abstinent from drugs and over ninety per cent
19 significantly decreased substance use within eight
20 weeks of using the PATH Clinic's services;



- 1 (5) Ninety-four per cent of women treated were tested to
2 be substance-free at the time of their children's
3 birth;
- 4 (6) Of the women who had positive drug tests at the time
5 of their children's birth, over half chose to enter a
6 residential substance abuse treatment program, often
7 noting that their experience at the PATH Clinic
8 contributed to their readiness to accept treatment;
- 9 (7) Ninety-six per cent of women treated maintained
10 custody of their infants eight weeks after delivery
11 (fifty-seven per cent had previously lost custody of
12 at least one child); and
- 13 (8) The nine-month repeat pregnancy rate for women who
14 maintained custody of their infants was lower than
15 state and national averages; fifty per cent of the
16 women who lost custody of their infants were pregnant
17 again within nine months of having given birth.

18 The PATH Clinic is a comprehensive perinatal addiction
19 clinic that integrates prenatal and postpartum obstetric
20 clinical services, addiction medicine services, and social
21 services. The state medicaid program is billed for allowable
22 clinical services. Although funding sources are available for



1 medical services, essential social services that are provided by
2 the clinic remain unfunded. State moneys are needed to fund
3 these services.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds as a grant
5 to continue the PATH Clinic pilot program.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
10 2012-2013 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes, for the PATH Clinic to provide case management and
12 other social services.

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

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

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



- 1 (2) Addiction medicine services that may not be medicaid
- 2 funded;
- 3 (3) Therapeutic child care 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, 2011.

15

Report Title:

Perinatal Care; Appropriation; Grant

Description:

Appropriates moneys as a grant for the continued operation of the PATH Clinic. (SD1)

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

