A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD DONATION.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the need for umbilical cord blood stem cell transplants is growing rapidly in the State of Hawaii, specifically amongst ethnic minority residents, such as those of Asian and Pacific islander decent, who have a lesser likelihood of finding a match through the National Marrow Donor Program due to a lack of donations from minorities.

The legislature finds that many expectant parents in Hawaii are not familiar with the options available when it comes to the donation of umbilical cord blood. Hawaii residents require basic information regarding umbilical cord blood donation, the benefits it poses, and the need for donors, especially ethnic minority donors. Six hospitals in Hawaii participate in the National Marrow Donor Program by collecting cord blood for donation to public cord blood banks to be listed on the Be the Match Registry and to become available to any patient in need of a transplant.
The purpose of this Act is to ensure that every expectant mother is aware of the options available in regards to the donation of umbilical cord blood following delivery.

SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"PART . UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD

§321- Umbilical cord blood donation program. (a) The department of health shall establish an umbilical cord blood donation program, which will require all birthing hospitals to offer all pregnant women in this State appropriate information regarding umbilical cord blood and its donation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that donation of umbilical cord blood is mandatory.

(b) The department of health may:

(1) Provide educational resources to all women in the State before and during pregnancy about the availability of umbilical cord blood donation;

(2) Make available cord blood bank screening and consent forms to all pregnant women in this State who choose to donate cord blood;
(3) Maintain a confidential registry of umbilical cord blood donors and collect appropriate statistical data for the purposes of research and evaluation; and

(4) Maintain confidentiality of records of women and their families participating in the program.

(c) The department of health shall adopt administrative rules, pursuant to chapter 91, as necessary to effectuate this part.

§321- Umbilical cord blood donation informed consent.

(a) The department of health shall require that each birthing hospital in the State provides to all expectant mothers an informed consent form containing the following:

(1) Brief information on umbilical cord blood donation, including the benefits and potential risks;

(2) Information on how to donate to the public Hawaii cord blood bank;

(3) Information on how to privately bank umbilical cord blood with an organization for personal future use; and

(4) Information regarding regular hospital disposal of umbilical cord blood.
The form shall be signed by the expectant mother to verify that the expectant mother is aware of and understands the options available regarding umbilical cord blood donation.

(b) No hospital, physician, or health care provider shall disclose any patient information regarding a decision on umbilical cord blood donation, except if a patient chooses to publicly donate to the Hawaii cord blood bank.

(c) All donations shall meet the requirements for umbilical cord blood donation set forth by the Hawaii cord blood bank. However, choosing to publicly donate umbilical cord blood to the Hawaii cord blood bank does not guarantee donation."

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
Report Title:
Umbilical Cord Blood Donation

Description:
Requires the department of health to require all birthing hospitals to provide informed consent regarding umbilical cord blood donation to expectant mothers.

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