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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that disparities in  
2 health outcomes between populations are increasingly costly to  
3 the State, both financially and socially. These disparities  
4 often have less to do with family medical history, such as a  
5 cancer gene passed on through generations, than to the social  
6 determinants of health, or the conditions in the environments in  
7 which people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age.  
8 Because these circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of  
9 forces, including economics, social policies, and politics,  
10 disparities in health outcomes are in large part preventable.

11           Social determinants of health are created and influenced by  
12 factors such as education, child care, housing, healthcare  
13 access, law, justice, media, community planning, transportation,  
14 and agriculture. Addressing these determinants is the key to  
15 achieving greater equity of opportunity for Hawaii's residents.  
16 Additionally, codifying health equity as a goal is a first step  
17 towards a more unified and comprehensive approach to public  
18 health policy.



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish health equity as a  
2 goal of the department of health.

3           SECTION 2. Section 321-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5           "**§321-1 General powers and duties of the department.** (a)

6 The department of health shall have general charge, oversight,  
7 and care of the health and lives of the people of the State[-],  
8 and shall pursue as a goal, the achievement of health equity.

9 The department shall consider social determinants of health in  
10 the assessment of state needs for health.

11           (b) The department may conduct epidemiologic  
12 investigations of diseases and injuries that threaten or are  
13 deemed by the department to threaten the public health and  
14 safety.

15           (c) The department shall have authority in matters of  
16 quarantine and other health matters and may declare and enforce  
17 quarantine when none exists and modify or release quarantine  
18 when it is established.

19           (d) When it is determined that there is imminent danger of  
20 epidemic or serious outbreak of communicable disease, the  
21 department may refuse, modify, or limit attendance at any school  
22 in the State.



1 (e) When in the judgment of the director, there is deemed  
2 to be a potential health hazard, the department may take  
3 precautionary measures to protect the public through the  
4 imposition of an embargo, the detention of products regulated by  
5 the department, the removal of products regulated by the  
6 department from the market, the declaration of quarantine, or by  
7 sequestering items suspected to be contaminated by toxic or  
8 infectious substances; provided that the director shall find  
9 evidence of a health hazard within seven days of the action  
10 taken or rescind the action. The director shall make public the  
11 findings.

12 (f) All county health authorities, sheriffs, police  
13 officers, and all other officers and employees of the State, and  
14 every county thereof, shall enforce the rules of the department.  
15 All such powers in health matters as have been or may be  
16 conferred upon any county shall be concurrent with those of the  
17 department.

18 (g) The department may establish charges and collect fees  
19 for any of its services; provided that the department shall not  
20 refuse to provide services to any person due to the person's  
21 inability to pay the fee for the service. The department,  
22 through the director, shall make an annual report to the



1 governor, showing in detail all its expenditures and  
2 transactions, and such other information regarding the public  
3 health as the department may deem of special interest.

4 (h) The department, during the prevalence of any severe  
5 pestilence or epidemic, shall publish a weekly report of the  
6 public health.

7 (i) The department shall establish and administer  
8 programs, and adopt rules as deemed necessary, for the  
9 prevention of domestic and sexual violence and the protection  
10 and treatment of victims of domestic and sexual violence.

11 (j) As used in this section:

12 "Health equity" means assuring equal opportunity for all  
13 people in the State to attain their full health potential.

14 "Social determinants of health" means the complex,  
15 integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic  
16 systems that contribute to health inequities. These social  
17 structures and economic systems include the social environment,  
18 physical environment, health services, and structural and  
19 societal factors."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Department of Health Goals; Health Equity; Social Determinants  
of Health

**Description:**

Establishes health equity as a goal for the Department of  
Health. Requires the Department to consider social determinants  
of health in assessing health needs in the State. Effective  
July 1, 2050. (HB2320 HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

