



# UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

## NEW PARENT INFORMATION

*Congratulations! As you welcome your baby's birth and look forward to the future, remember it's important to get your baby off to a good start.*

### ***Begin with Good Hearing***

Good hearing helps your baby learn to talk. Babies begin to listen from birth. They learn to speak by listening to their families talk.

All babies born in Hawaii have their hearing screened soon after birth. If hearing screening is against your religious beliefs, you may sign a written refusal. If your baby hasn't been screened, please call the Department of Health's Newborn Hearing Screening Program at 808-973-1116.

Hearing screening is simple and safe for your baby. If not found early, hearing loss may cause delays in your baby's development.

### ***What to Expect***

Your baby's hearing will be screened in one or more ways.

*If an **Otoacoustic Emission Screening** is used, tiny earphones will be placed in your baby's ears to pick up responses as sounds are played.*

*If an **Auditory Brainstem Response Screening** is used, tiny electrodes will be taped to your baby's head to pick up responses as sounds are played.*

Sometimes babies do not pass initial screenings. Try not to worry if this happens. Your baby may not pass because:

- √ There is birthing fluid in the ear; or
- √ The ear canal is still narrow.

If your baby does not pass initially, another screening or further testing may be needed in 2 to 6 weeks.

### ***Further Testing***

For babies who do not pass their hearing screenings, an **Auditory Brainstem Response Diagnostic Test** is used to determine if there is a hearing loss.

### ***If Hearing Loss is Found***

If a hearing loss is found, the audiologist or your baby's doctor will talk to you about what do next and may refer you to the Department of Health for early intervention services.

You may also call the Hawaii Keiki Information Services System (H-KISS) to receive information about services and support. The H-KISS number is 808-973-9633 on Oahu or toll-free at 800-235-5477 on Neighbor Islands.

### ***Other Information***

As required by state law, information about your baby's hearing screening and diagnostic tests will be sent to the Department of Health. This information represents the minimum necessary to carry out the public health purposes of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.514(d) of the Privacy Rule.



Linda Lingle, Governor  
Chiyome Fukino, M.D., Director of Health

*The Hawaii Department of Health provides access to activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 at (808) 586-4616 (voice/tty) within 180 days of a problem.*

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