



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH RECIEVES GRANT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF MOTHERS
AND BABIES IN HAWAI'I**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), Family Health Services Division, Maternal and Child Health Branch was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the March of Dimes Hawai'i Chapter. The grant will support the 2008 Hawai'i Perinatal Health Summit "Developing Strategies for Healthy Women, Healthy Pregnancy, and Healthy Birth Outcomes" that will be held in October of this year. The summit will focus on underserved maternal and child health needs here in Hawai'i. The grant is one of many that the March of Dimes awards in pursuit of its mission to prevent birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

"The March of Dimes grant will be used to support our goal of providing mothers and babies with improved access to quality preconception and perinatal health care which in turn can mean better birth outcomes for pre-term births and babies born with low birth weight in Hawai'i," said Loretta Fuddy, chief, Family Health Services Division. "We are grateful to those volunteers who support the March of Dimes by participating in events like March for Babies and donating in other ways. Their generous actions made this grant possible," she said.

(more)

The DOH Family Health Services Division and its Maternal and Child Health Branch administer programs that plan, provide, and promote health services for mothers, children, and youth statewide. This includes the provision of primary prevention, early identification, and treatment services for adverse conditions to prevent progressive disabilities and to promote health services to women of child bearing age, infants, children, and adolescents.

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its signature event, March for Babies, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.com or nacersano.org.

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