



Representative Sam Kito

Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 49

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 49 extends the termination date for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives until June 30, 2021.

Legislative Audit conducted their review of this board and determined that "The board is serving the public's interest by effectively licensing and regulating certified direct-entry midwives and apprentice midwives. The board monitors licensees and works to ensure only qualified individuals practice. Furthermore, the board adopts regulations to improve the practice of midwifery. In accordance with AS 08.03.010(c)(8), the board is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2017. We recommend that the legislature extend the board's termination date to June 30, 2021."

The board currently oversees 52 active licensees and is composed of five members: two certified direct-entry midwives, one physician licensed by the State Medical Board, one certified nurse midwife licensed by the Board of Nursing, and one public member.

The continuation of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is important to the health and safety of Alaska's women and children, as it serves an important role in protecting the well-being of Alaskans by identifying individuals who are willing to pursue technical training and meet specified technical qualifications necessary for license as midwives.

Thank you for your support of House Bill 49.