What does it mean if your baby PASSES the hearing screening?

Most babies who pass hearing screening have normal hearing.

Rarely, a baby can pass newborn hearing screening but is later found to have hearing loss. Some mild hearing losses or losses that affect only some pitches may not be picked up by newborn hearing screening.

It is important to talk with your baby's doctor if you have any concerns, such as:

- someone in your family has been deaf or hard-of-hearing since they were born, or they lost their hearing in early childhood;
- you are worried that your baby is not learning like other children the same age;
- your child has a lot of ear infections; or
- your child has had a serious infection such as meningitis.

For more information call

Hawaii Newborn Hearing Screening Program
808-733-9054
Website: health.hawaii.gov/genetics/programs/nhsp/

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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HAWAII NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

INFORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS

Newborn Hearing Screening Program
Genomics Section
Children with Special Health Needs Branch
Hawaii Department of Health

What is newborn hearing screening?

Your newborn will have a screening test to check for concerns with the baby's hearing. This will be done at the hospital soon after birth. For babies born outside a hospital, the hearing screen can be arranged by a midwife or other healthcare provider.

Why is it important to have your baby's hearing screened?

About 3 out of every 1,000 babies are born deaf or with hearing loss. If your baby has a hearing loss, it is important to find out early. Early care will help with his or her learning and language.

How is the hearing screening done?

Hearing screening is simple, safe and does not hurt. Your baby may be taken to a quiet room when sleeping to do the screening. Tiny earphones will be placed in your baby's ears and a small sound will be made to check for responses. Screening can be done in two ways:

- Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) – to find out if the inner ear responds to the sound
- Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR) – tiny electrodes will be taped to your baby's head to find out if your baby's brain senses the sound.

If you do not receive the results before leaving the hospital, ask the nurse.

What does it mean if your baby DOES NOT PASS the hearing screening?

If your baby does not pass, you need to return to the hospital for another screen within two weeks. If your baby does not pass the additional screen, an audiologist should be seen. The audiologist will do a hearing test that will find out if your baby has hearing loss.

Where do you go for follow-up hearing testing?

Your baby's doctor or the hospital staff will help to make an appointment for your baby to have the hearing test. You may also call the Newborn Hearing Screening Program at 808-594-0043 to find out where you can make an appointment.

How much does this test cost?

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of newborn hearing screening. If you do not have insurance or cannot afford the cost of the test, please contact the Newborn Hearing Screening Program at 808-594-0043.

What should you do if your child is diagnosed with hearing loss?

Families work with their baby's doctor, audiologist, and other health care providers to decide what services are important for their child.

If your child is deaf or hard of hearing, you may enroll your child in the Department of Health's Early Intervention Program. This program provides services based on the needs of the child and family.

You can also contact the Hawaii Keiki Information Services System (H-KISS) for information about services and support:

- 808-594-0066 on Oahu
- 1-800-235-5477 (toll-free) on Neighbor Islands