HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# GENETICS AND CONGENITAL HEARING LOSS

## INTERESTING FACTS

About **1 in 300** infants are born with mild to profound permanent hearing loss.

At least **50%** of congenital hearing loss cases have underlying genetic causes.

90% of genetic cases of congenital hearing loss are non-syndromic. Most are inherited as autosomal recessive disorders.

50% of these autosomal recessive cases are thought to be due to mutations in a gene called Connexin 26.

This means that about 20-30% of all congenital hearing loss is estimated to be due to mutations in Connexin 26.

Other genetic causes have also been implicated in congenital hearing loss:

- About 50 genes have been discovered for non-syndromic hearing loss.
- About 30 genes have been discovered for syndromic hearing loss.

Identification of the cause of a child's hearing loss may help with recurrence risk counseling and creating an optimal plan for treatment, intervention, and follow-up.

A genetic evaluation is recommended for children with hearing loss of unknown etiology.

Early diagnosis of congenital hearing loss and appropriate intervention provide many benefits to a child, including improved communication skills, social interaction, and learning.

Hawai'i Genetics Program

www.hawaiigenetics.org