



**Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki**  
Alaska State Legislature      District A Fairbanks

**SB 192**  
**Sponsor Statement**

*"An Act relating to midwives and the practice of midwifery; relating to apprentice midwives; relating to the licensing of midwives; relating to insurance requirements for the practice of midwifery; and providing for an effective date."*

Senate Bill 192 would establish licensing of certified professional midwives in Alaska and create a governing board to develop licensing procedures and review licensing applications and renewals.

Currently Alaska only has legislation regarding the certification of direct-entry midwives. This bill would institute licensing requirements and regulations for certified professional midwives to be formed in conjunction with a nationally recognized midwife organization. The bill also requires that licensed midwives have basic life support certification for health care providers and certification in neonatal resuscitation, and knowledge of and experience with non-hospital-based births. These requirements would be in addition to a required background in a health-related field other than nursing and graduation from a master's level midwifery education program.

This bill would also create a Board of Licensed Midwives from the current Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. The new Board will adopt standards and regulations for licensed midwives that are in the public interest and in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The Board will review license applications and renewals for midwives in the State of Alaska and establish insurance provisions. The Board will help to develop future legislation specific to licensed midwives that will clarify these standards and regulations.

SB 192 is important for ensuring safer at-home births and improving prepartum and postpartum care for mothers and infants.

I ask for your consideration and support of Senate Bill 192 to allow the State licensing of certified professional midwives and the formation of a governing board to oversee the standards and regulations for licensed midwives.

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