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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is currently a  
3 shortage of at least fifty mobile intensive care technicians or  
4 paramedics in Hawaii. The Emergency Medical Services Strategic  
5 Planning for the Future conference in 2003 estimated that two  
6 hundred fifty mobile intensive care technicians will be needed  
7 within the next five years to fully staff the system. This  
8 estimate includes current shortages, attrition, and anticipated  
9 system growth (e.g., the federal firefighting agency had six  
10 mobile intensive care technicians and anticipated needing  
11 twenty-nine before the end of 2007).

12 The lack of local training has made the shortage even more  
13 critical, especially on the neighbor islands. Emergency medical  
14 technicians leave the industry because they are unable to  
15 advance without financial assistance. Others take  
16 correspondence classes in nursing or other related health care  
17 fields. For example, Maui currently has at least ten emergency  
18 medical technicians who wish to enter the next mobile intensive



1 care technician training program being offered. To complete  
2 this program and be certified, these students must attend and  
3 successfully complete both the didactic and practical training  
4 clinics. The didactic training is proposed to be held in Maui  
5 in 2007. However, the mandatory practical training is offered  
6 only on Oahu. Traveling to Oahu is an enormous expense for  
7 these students who must take time off from work and away from  
8 their families to attend the training. Without financial  
9 assistance of some type, it is unlikely that many of them will  
10 be able to attend.

11 The prime recruiting target for the federal firefighting  
12 agency is the city and county of Honolulu mobile intensive care  
13 technician workforce, which is already critically short-staffed.  
14 All providers look increasingly to paramedics who have trained  
15 on the mainland to staff Hawaii's ambulances. These mainland  
16 recruits are rarely employed beyond two years in the Hawaii  
17 system before returning to the mainland.

18 It is widely recognized that the manner in which moneys  
19 distributed for mobile intensive care technician workforce  
20 development is not equitable. Unless the State can provide  
21 financial stipends to non-civil service employees who train in  
22 an accredited program, the crisis will quickly worsen.



1 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the  
2 department of health to establish a training stipend program for  
3 emergency medical technicians who do not have access to a  
4 training stipend program and who want to advance in their chosen  
5 profession by enrolling in a state-qualified mobile intensive  
6 care technician training program.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to  
10 establish the emergency medical technician training stipend  
11 program to remedy the shortage of mobile intensive care  
12 technicians/paramedics in Hawaii and to assist, through a  
13 state-qualified mobile intensive care technician program, ten  
14 students per year who are public or private paramedics and who  
15 currently do not have access to a training stipend program.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 health for the purposes of this part.

18 PART II

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so  
21 much thereof as is necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to  
22 provide funding for helicopter medical transport services for

1 the island of Oahu; provided that the department of health shall  
2 procure helicopter medical transport services for the island of  
3 Oahu according to the following priority:

- 4 (1) Working with the department of defense;
- 5 (2) Working with the city and county of Honolulu; or
- 6 (3) Purchase of service.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 health for the purpose of this part.

9 PART III

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

**Report Title:**

Health; MICT; EMT Stipend Program

**Description:**

Establishes EMT training stipend program to remedy shortage of MICT paramedics and assist 10 students per year who are public or private paramedics and cannot access a program. Makes an appropriation. Appropriates funds for helicopter medical transport services for the island of Oahu. (CD2)

