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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

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PART I

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SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States Army's 68th Medical Company's Medical Assistance to Safety and Traffic helicopters have served Hawaii for the past thirty-one years. These military aeromedical helicopters have transported over seven thousand patients and saved countless lives by transporting patients from rural areas, particularly in West Oahu and the North Shore of Oahu, to tertiary hospitals. Located at Wheeler Army Air Field, the aeromedical helicopters provide a vital service at no cost to rural Oahu.

However, the legislature also finds that due to the increased military activity in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq, the aeromedical helicopters may soon be deployed to those areas, leaving rural Oahu residents without aeromedical services. The legislature believes that providing intra-island aeromedical services to rural Oahu is necessary for the health and safety of residents and therefore is a matter of statewide concern.



1           It is not the intent of this part to supplant existing  
2 ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or non-  
3 emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical  
4 helicopter unit would use triage protocols to ensure the  
5 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter use  
6 would be based on national aeromedical triage and transport  
7 guidelines as established by the Association of Air Medical  
8 Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National  
9 Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

10           The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to provide  
11 intra-island emergency aeromedical services to rural Oahu only.

12           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
14 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a grant-in-aid  
15 to the director of health to contract with an existing  
16 government agency or United States military unit to provide  
17 intra-island roto-wing emergency aeromedical services for rural  
18 Oahu only:

19           (1) Provided that the emergency aeromedical helicopter  
20           services:



1 (A) Shall not supplant existing ground or fixed-wing  
2 transport, especially for routine or non-  
3 emergency inter-facility transportation; and

4 (B) Shall use triage protocols that are based on  
5 national aeromedical triage and transport  
6 guidelines established by the Association of Air  
7 Medical Services, the American College of  
8 Surgeons, and the National Association of  
9 Emergency Medical Services Physicians;

10 and

11 (2) Provided further that:

12 (A) One additional ground emergency medical services  
13 ambulance shall be provided until the specified  
14 intra-island roto-wing aeromedical services are  
15 secured to ensure maximum emergency transport  
16 coverage; and

17 (B) The city and county of Honolulu shall share in  
18 the cost to contract with an existing government  
19 agency or United States military unit to provide  
20 intra-island roto-wing aeromedical services for  
21 rural Oahu only.



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

3 PART II

4 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the current practice  
5 of staffing the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island of  
6 Hawaii by using ground ambulance personnel reduces operational  
7 effectiveness and safety by:

- 8 (1) Reducing the number of available ground ambulance  
9 units assessed and deemed necessary to effectively  
10 serve a given community or geographic area. The  
11 current practice of using the South Kohala ambulance  
12 unit as the primary coverage unit and Waikoloa as the  
13 secondary coverage unit has a direct effect on the  
14 delivery of ambulance services to residents and  
15 visitors of those respective communities. Although  
16 this same effect may be experienced with daily  
17 emergency medical services operations, it would be  
18 minimized through the use of a dedicated aeromedical  
19 crew;
- 20 (2) Extending the out-of-service time for the respective  
21 ground ambulance units involved in the mission through  
22 the staffing of the helicopter;

- 1           (3) Reducing the quality and effectiveness of patient care
- 2                    by using personnel who are unfamiliar or less familiar
- 3                    with the operation of the helicopter unit. This
- 4                    includes but is not limited to:
- 5                    (A) Flight physiology;
- 6                    (B) Patient loading and extrication;
- 7                    (C) Specialized treatment modalities and practices;
- 8                    (D) Space and altitude limitations; and
- 9                    (E) Aircraft performance limitations;
- 10           (4) Using personnel who are unfamiliar or less familiar
- 11                    with the equipment of the helicopter unit. This
- 12                    includes but is not limited to:
- 13                    (A) Radio and communications equipment;
- 14                    (B) Aircraft lighting;
- 15                    (C) Compartment latch and security mechanisms;
- 16                    (D) Emergency evacuation and shut-down procedures;
- 17                    (E) Flight following; and
- 18                    (F) Scene operations and safety;
- 19           (5) Using personnel who are uncomfortable with or
- 20                    psychologically and physiologically affected by
- 21                    helicopter flight and operations;

1 (6) Using personnel who may have physical characteristics,  
2 such as height and weight, that limit performance or  
3 operations; and

4 (7) Operating with limited availability of personal  
5 protective equipment, such as flight suits and  
6 helmets.

7 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to  
8 reestablish the practice of employing emergency medical service  
9 personnel who are dedicated to staff the aeromedical helicopter  
10 unit on the island of Hawaii, and thereby maximize operational  
11 effectiveness and operational safety.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
14 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 as a grant-in-aid  
15 to the county of Hawaii for dedicated emergency medical service  
16 personnel to staff the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island  
17 of Hawaii.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
19 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

20 PART III

21 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that there is a lack of  
22 hospitals and health centers in the southern portion of the

1 island of Hawaii, and residents of the area are particularly  
2 vulnerable in the event of a serious medical emergency. The  
3 most efficient solution is to provide two emergency mobile  
4 urgent care units to be stationed at the fire departments in the  
5 communities of Ocean View and Volcano.

6 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to provide  
7 the people of the southern portion of the island of Hawaii with  
8 access to appropriate emergency and urgent medical care.

9 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to be used  
12 for two emergency mobile urgent care units to be stationed at  
13 the fire departments of the Ocean View and Volcano communities  
14 on the island of Hawaii.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
16 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

17 PART IV

18 SECTION 7. The purpose of this part is to appropriate  
19 funds for a fully-capable, advanced life support emergency  
20 medical services ambulance unit that would provide sixteen-  
21 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week emergency response service to the



1 areas of Lower Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Crestview, East  
2 Waipahu, Waiawa, and the Pearl City industrial area on Oahu.

3 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to be deposited  
6 into the emergency medical services special fund.

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the emergency  
8 medical services special fund the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
9 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to establish a  
10 fully-capable, advanced life support emergency medical services  
11 ambulance unit that would provide sixteen-hours-a-day, seven-  
12 days-a-week emergency response service to the areas of Lower  
13 Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Crestview, East Waipahu,  
14 Waiawa, and the Pearl City industrial area on Oahu.

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

17 PART V

18 SECTION 10. The legislature finds that the protection and  
19 preservation of the health of Hawaii's people is a matter of  
20 compelling state interest. Emergency ambulance services,  
21 available twenty-four-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, can help  
22 reduce medical emergency deaths, injuries, and permanent long-





1 term disability and are a key component of the state  
2 comprehensive emergency medical services system. The Haiku  
3 region of Maui is located at the northern tip of the island and  
4 lacks twenty-four-hour, locally-based, advanced life support  
5 ambulance service. The nearest ambulance service is located in  
6 Makawao, which is forty-five minutes away and the next closest  
7 is in Hana, a full ninety minutes away. Both wait times are  
8 unacceptably long and endanger the health of residents of the  
9 Haiku region.

10 The purpose of this part is to ensure parity in emergency  
11 health care for residents and visitors of the Haiku region of  
12 Maui by providing twenty-four-hour, advanced life support  
13 ambulance service.

14 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
16 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for twenty-four-  
17 hour, advanced life support ambulance service for the Haiku  
18 district on the island of Maui.

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

1 PART VI

2 SECTION 12. The legislature finds that the Waianae Coast  
3 Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) serves a population of forty  
4 thousand people in Leeward Oahu. It has a twenty-four hour  
5 emergency room and only one ambulance. The nearest back-up  
6 emergency services are twenty miles away at Saint Francis  
7 Medical Center-West.

8 Emergency services at WCCHC have received legislative  
9 appropriations since 1976. Without this legislative support,  
10 the WCCHC emergency room would have to close its doors.

11 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for  
12 emergency services at the WCCHC.

13 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for  
16 emergency services at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health  
17 Center.

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

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PART VII

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SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



S. B. NO. 3146  
SD 2 HD1

**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for various emergency medical services.  
(SB3146 HD1)

SB3146 HD1 HMS 2006-3045

