

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

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

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



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

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

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

1           The purpose of this Act 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 Act.

18           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



SB218, SD4, HD1, CD1

**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. Make an appropriation. (CD1)

