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# 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 a shortage  
2 of at least fifty mobile intensive care technician/paramedics in  
3 Hawaii right now. As part of the Emergency Medical Services  
4 (EMS) Strategic Planning for the Future conference in 2003, it  
5 was estimated that two hundred fifty mobile intensive care  
6 technicians (MICTs) would be needed within the next five years  
7 to fully staff the system. This estimate includes current  
8 shortages, attrition, and anticipated system growth (e.g., the  
9 Federal Fire Department had six MICTs 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. Emergency medical technicians/technologists (EMTs)  
13 leave the industry because they are unable to advance without  
14 financial assistance. Others take correspondence classes in  
15 nursing or other related health care work. Currently, there are  
16 at least ten students who wish to enter the next MICT program  
17 being offered on Maui, which possibly will be scheduled in early



1 2007. Without financial assistance of some type, it is unlikely  
2 that many of them will be able to attend.

3 The prime recruiting grounds for the Federal Fire  
4 Department is the city and county of Honolulu MICT workforce,  
5 which is already critically short-staffed. All providers look  
6 increasingly to paramedics who have trained on the mainland to  
7 staff Hawaii's ambulances. These mainland recruits rarely last  
8 more than two years in the Hawaii system before returning back  
9 to the mainland.

10 It is widely recognized that the monies distributed for  
11 MICT workforce development are not equitable. Unless there is a  
12 remedy to provide financial stipends to non-civil service  
13 employees who train in an accredited program, the crisis will  
14 quickly get worse.

15 The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to  
16 establish a training stipend program for MICTs for the county of  
17 Maui and the county of Kauai.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to  
21 establish the MICT stipend program for the counties of Maui and



1 Kauai to remedy the shortage of MICT paramedics in Hawaii and to  
2 assist students who are non-civil service through MICT school.

3 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
4 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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



SB218, SD1

**Report Title:**

Health; MICT Stipend Program

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Health; MICT Stipend Program

**Description:**

Establishes a training stipend program for MICTs for the County of Maui and the County of Kauai. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

