
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 the
16 Department of Health to establish a training stipend program for
17 Emergency Medical Technicians who do not have access to such a
18 program and want to advance in their chosen profession by
19 enrolling in a state-qualified Mobile Intensive Care Technician
20 training program.

21 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000, or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
2 establish the EMT stipend program to remedy the shortage of MICT
3 paramedics in Hawaii and to assist, through a state-qualified
4 MICT program, ten students per year who are public or private
5 paramedics and currently do not have access to a stipend
6 program.

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

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

Report Title:

Health; MICT; EMT Stipend Program

Description:

Establishes the EMT stipend program to remedy the shortage of MICT paramedics in Hawaii and to assist, through a state-qualified MICT program, ten students per year who are public or private paramedics and currently do not have access to a stipend program. Makes appropriation. (SD2)

