
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. Although funds were appropriated to the
5 department of health for control of infectious diseases for the
6 fiscal period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006,
7 a critical funding emergency now exists.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate an additional
9 \$11,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2005-2006 to
10 prepare for a novel strain of influenza by acquiring
11 medications, mass clinic supplies, laboratory supplies and
12 equipment, personal protective equipment, and a data management
13 system for tracking cases and contacts.

14 Highly pathogenic avian influenza has spread across Asia
15 and has been detected in Eastern Europe. While primarily
16 affecting birds at the present time, at least one hundred forty-
17 four human cases have been reported in China, Vietnam, Thailand,



1 Indonesia, Cambodia, and Turkey, with a mortality rate of
2 approximately fifty per cent. Scientists are particularly
3 concerned about the highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1)
4 currently circulating in Asia and parts of Europe and agree that
5 another influenza pandemic is inevitable and possibly imminent.

6 Based on historical patterns, influenza pandemics can be
7 expected to occur, on average, three to four times each century
8 when new virus subtypes emerge and are readily transmitted from
9 person to person. However, the occurrence of influenza
10 pandemics is unpredictable. In the twentieth century, the great
11 influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 that caused an estimated forty
12 to fifty million deaths worldwide was followed by pandemics in
13 1957-1958 and 1968-1969.

14 An influenza pandemic has the potential to cause more death
15 and illness than any other public health threat. If a pandemic
16 influenza virus with similar virulence to the 1918 strain
17 emerged today, in the absence of intervention, it is estimated
18 that 1,900,000 Americans could die and almost ten million could
19 be hospitalized over the course of the pandemic that may evolve
20 over a year or more. Preparedness to lessen the impact of a
21 pandemic is imperative.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$11,000,000, or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal years 2005-2006, to
4 prepare for a pandemic of a novel strain of influenza.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 health.

7 SECTION 4. Any provision of this Act to the contrary
8 notwithstanding, the appropriation authorized under this Act
9 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
10 appropriation is made. Any unexpended and unencumbered balance
11 of the appropriation made in this Act as of the close of the
12 business on June 30, 2007, shall lapse.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

SB2348, SD1

Report Title:

Public Health; Emergency Appropriation

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation to prepare for a pandemic of a novel strain of influenza. (SD1)

