
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION AS A GRANT-IN-AID TO THE COUNTY OF
HAWAII FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL TO STAFF THE
AEROMEDICAL HELICOPTER UNIT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the current practice
2 of staffing the aeromedical helicopter on the island of Hawaii
3 by utilizing ground ambulance personnel reduces operational
4 effectiveness and safety by:

5 (1) Reducing the number of available ground ambulance
6 units assessed and deemed necessary to effectively
7 serve a given community or geographic area. The
8 current practice of utilizing the South Kohala
9 ambulance unit as the primary coverage unit and
10 Waikoloa as the secondary coverage unit has a direct
11 impact on ambulance service delivery to residents and
12 visitors of those respective communities. Although
13 this same impact may be experienced with daily
14 emergency medical services operations, it would be
15 minimized through the use of a dedicated aeromedical
16 crew;



- 1 (2) Extending the out-of-service time for the respective
2 ground ambulance units involved in the mission through
3 the staffing of the helicopter;
- 4 (3) Reducing quality and effective patient care through
5 the use of personnel unfamiliar or less familiar with
6 the equipment and operations of the helicopter unit.
7 This includes, but is not limited to: flight
8 physiology, patient loading and extrication,
9 specialized treatment modalities and practices, space
10 and altitude limitations, and aircraft performance
11 limitations;
- 12 (4) Utilizing personnel unfamiliar with or less familiar
13 with the equipment and operations of the helicopter
14 unit. This includes, but is not limited to: radio
15 and communications equipment, aircraft lighting,
16 compartment latch and security mechanisms, emergency
17 evacuation and shut-down procedures, flight following,
18 and scene operations and safety;
- 19 (5) Utilizing personnel uncomfortable with or
20 psychologically and physiologically affected by
21 helicopter flight and operations;



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

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

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
7 reestablishment of dedicated emergency medical service personnel
8 to staff the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island of
9 Hawaii, which will maximize operational effectiveness and
10 operational safety.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, as a
14 grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii for dedicated emergency
15 medical service personnel to staff the aeromedical helicopter
16 unit on the island of Hawaii, provided that State funds are
17 matched by the County of Hawaii.

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

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

Report Title:

Hawaii County; Aeromedical Emergency Personnel

Description:

Makes an appropriation to Hawaii county for dedicated emergency medical service personnel to staff the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island of Hawaii. (SD1)

