

JAN 22 2007

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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 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. For example, the federal firefighting agency had  
9 six 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



1 care technician training program being offered. In order to  
2 complete this program and be certified, these students must  
3 attend and successfully complete both the didactic and practical  
4 training clinics. The didactic training is proposed to be held  
5 in Maui in 2007 and Kauai in 2008. However, the mandatory  
6 practical training is only offered on Oahu. Traveling to Oahu  
7 is an enormous expense for these students who must take time off  
8 from work and from their families to attend the training.  
9 Without financial assistance of some type, it is unlikely that  
10 many of them will be able to attend.

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

18 It is widely recognized that the manner in which moneys  
19 distributed for mobile intensive care technician workforce  
20 development is not equitable. Unless the State can provide  
21 financial stipends to non-civil service employees who train in  
22 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 continue 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 2007-2008, to  
 10 establish the emergency medical technician training stipend  
 11 program to remedy the shortage of mobile intensive care  
 12 technicians and paramedics in Hawaii and to assist, through a  
 13 state-qualified mobile intensive care technician program, ten  
 14 students per year who are either public or private paramedics  
 15 and who currently do not have access to a training stipend  
 16 program.

17           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 18 health for the purposes of this Act.

19           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Health; Mobile Intensive Care Technician; Emergency Medical Services; Stipend Program

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to establish emergency medical services training stipend program to remedy the shortage of mobile intensive care technician paramedics and assist ten paramedic students per year who do not have access to a program.

