

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOLOKAI GENERAL HOSPITAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. Molokai General Hospital is a critical access
2 hospital and the only hospital on the island of Molokai, serving
3 a population of approximately seven thousand five hundred
4 residents and all visitors. The hospital is a fifteen-bed
5 facility and represents the only twenty-four hour emergency
6 services, acute medical and pediatric inpatient care, midwifery
7 (obstetrical) care, radiology, CT scan, laboratory, and
8 respiratory therapy services on Molokai.

9 In addition, it provides mammography and ultrasound,
10 comprehensive physical therapy services, family planning,
11 hospice-comfort care, and specialty clinics including endoscopic
12 procedures. Molokai General Hospital's rural health clinic is
13 one of only five sites in Hawaii (and the only one on Molokai)
14 with a program certified by the American Diabetes Association
15 for diabetes care management. The rural health clinic also
16 houses the only chemotherapy services on Molokai, an almost



1 four-year-old program that has greatly eased the psychological
2 and financial burden of cancer in this community.

3 Although Molokai General Hospital is not a state hospital,
4 it receives a monthly subsidy from the State as a community
5 hospital. Molokai General Hospital also receives substantial
6 financial and management support as a subsidiary of The Queen's
7 Health Systems.

8 Molokai General Hospital has identified a need for a new
9 x-ray unit. The present x-ray unit is almost fourteen years
10 old, and in terms of advances in technology during that period,
11 it is ancient. A modern x-ray unit for Molokai General Hospital
12 would:

- 13 (1) Reduce the amount of developing chemicals used in
14 processing;
- 15 (2) Provide more detailed images especially of obese
16 patients;
- 17 (3) Improve the overall quality of images;
- 18 (4) Digitally send images for reading in a more timely
19 manner, resulting in more accurate and better
20 information for physicians and enabling them to
21 provide the best possible patient diagnosis and the
22 best possible outcomes; and



1 (5) Greatly reduce time the unit is not in service, which
 2 is imperative as the only 24-7 radiology service on
 3 the island.

4 For these reasons, the purpose of this Act is to
 5 appropriate \$400,000 for the purchase of an x-ray unit for
 6 Molokai General Hospital.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
 10 purchase an x-ray unit for Molokai General Hospital.

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

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Molokai General Hospital; X-ray Unit; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for fiscal year 2008-2009 to purpose an x-ray unit for Molokai general hospital.

