

JAN 28 2009

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 Hawaii has a forty
2 per cent higher prevalence rate of patients diagnosed with
3 end-stage renal disease than the rest of the nation. The
4 National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii estimates that six hundred
5 twenty patients are newly diagnosed with end-stage renal disease
6 every year in Hawaii. Patients suffering from end-stage renal
7 disease are most often put on dialysis treatment, a medical
8 treatment that filters waste from the patients' blood when the
9 kidneys are no longer able to do so. The treatment takes hours
10 and usually requires three treatments a week.

11 As of December 2008, the State has twenty-two federally
12 certified dialysis centers, not including those within
13 hospitals, and many are operating at close to full capacity.
14 Only one of the off-hospital dialysis centers has a backup
15 emergency generator, and yet, even that system was not prepared
16 to run its water treatment system with low water pressure. The



1 two requirements that are crucial to the operations of dialysis
2 treatment are electricity and water.

3 As a result of the recent power outages in the State, many
4 dialysis patients were forced to miss their regular treatment
5 appointments, which put them at serious risk for blood
6 poisoning.

7 The purpose of this Act is to require all dialysis centers
8 in Hawaii to have backup emergency generators with the capacity
9 to sustain dialysis treatments and maintain their water
10 treatment system.

11 SECTION 2. Beginning October 1, 2010, each dialysis center
12 operating in the State shall have a backup emergency generator
13 with sufficient capacity to provide electricity necessary to
14 sustain dialysis treatments while also maintaining water
15 pressure levels required to operate the dialysis treatment
16 system. Each dialysis center shall maintain enough fuel on the
17 premises to maintain the operation of its backup generator for
18 at least forty-eight hours.

19 SECTION 3. The department of health shall develop
20 guidelines for dialysis centers to follow regarding the
21 installation, capacity, and use of backup emergency generators
22 that are required by this Act.



1 SECTION 4. The department of health shall submit a report
 2 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
 3 convening of the regular session of 2010, identifying each
 4 dialysis center operating in the State and reporting whether
 5 each dialysis center has complied with the requirements of this
 6 Act.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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Report Title:

Dialysis Centers; Backup Generators

Description:

Requires all dialysis centers in the State to have backup generators with the capacity to sustain treatment and maintain the centers' water treatment system.

