
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 is not prepared
16 to run its water treatment system with low water pressure.
17 Electricity and water are crucial to dialysis treatment. As a

1 result of the December 2008 power outages in the State, many
2 dialysis patients were forced to miss their regular treatment
3 appointments, which put them at serious risk for blood
4 poisoning.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
6 health to review the emergency plans of all dialysis centers in
7 the State and to post a list on the department's website of all
8 dialysis centers in Hawaii that have backup emergency generators
9 with the capacity to sustain dialysis treatments and maintain
10 their water treatment system in the event of a power outage.

11 SECTION 2. The department of health shall review emergency
12 plans and develop guidelines for all dialysis centers in the
13 State to ensure the safety of dialysis patients in the event of
14 a public emergency. The department shall post on its website a
15 list of all dialysis centers in Hawaii that have backup
16 emergency generators with the capacity to sustain dialysis
17 treatments and maintain their water treatment system in the
18 event of a power outage.

19 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
20 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
21 convening of the regular session of 2010, identifying each
22 dialysis center and its emergency plan operating in the State.

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Report Title:

Dialysis Centers; Backup Generators

Description:

Requires the department of health to review emergency plans and develop guidelines of all dialysis centers in the State to ensure the safety of dialysis patients in the event of a public emergency; requires the department to post on its website a list of all dialysis centers in Hawaii that have backup emergency generators with the capacity to sustain dialysis treatments and maintain their water treatment system. (SD2)