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

11 The legislature finds that hemodialysis and peritoneal
12 dialysis patients have special risks and needs during and after
13 critical events and natural disasters. Water, power, supplies,
14 and medications are essential to the survival of dialysis
15 patients. Because of Hawaii's geographical isolation and high
16 number of patients with kidney disease, the need for emergency
17 planning to maintain dialysis services is pressing. Therefore,
18 with funding from the federal metropolitan medical response



1 system grant program, a task force composed of public and
2 private sector members representing both health care and
3 emergency management interests was established in 2010 to create
4 a statewide dialysis emergency plan for Hawaii. The task force
5 commissioned a study to identify risks and needs and make
6 recommendations for preparation for and response to power
7 outages, hurricanes, earthquakes, water outages, or other large-
8 scale emergencies. The legislature notes that the task force
9 report is expected to be made available in the coming months.

10 As of January 2011, the State had nineteen federally-
11 certified dialysis centers, not including those within
12 hospitals, and many are operating at close to full capacity.
13 Only one of the off-hospital dialysis centers has a backup
14 emergency generator; even that system is not prepared to run its
15 water treatment system with low water pressure. Electricity and
16 water are crucial to dialysis treatment. As a result of the
17 December 2008 power outages in the State, many dialysis patients
18 were forced to miss their regular treatment appointments, which
19 put them at serious risk for blood poisoning.

20 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
21 health, the civil defense division of the state department of
22 defense, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's emergency



1 management program, and the emergency services departments of
2 the respective counties to carry out the statewide dialysis
3 emergency plan created by the task force established in 2010
4 under the federal metropolitan medical response system grant.

5 SECTION 2. The department of health, the civil defense
6 division of the state department of defense, the Healthcare
7 Association of Hawaii's emergency management program, and the
8 emergency services departments of the respective counties shall
9 submit a joint report to the legislature no later than twenty
10 days before the start of the 2012 regular session, on the
11 progress of implementing the statewide emergency dialysis plan.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2012-2013 to upgrade dialysis facilities and otherwise
17 effectuate the recommendations of the statewide dialysis
18 emergency plan created by the task force established in 2010
19 under the federal metropolitan medical response system grant.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of health for the purposes of this Act.

22 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.



Report Title:

Health Care; Dialysis Centers; Appropriation

Description:

Directs the Department of Health, State Civil Defense, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's Emergency Management Program, and the emergency services departments of the respective counties to report to the Legislature on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the statewide dialysis emergency plan. Appropriates funds to upgrade dialysis facilities and implement the plan. Effective July 1, 2050.
(SB1538 HD1)

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