
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 had 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 center was not prepared
16 to run its water treatment system with low water pressure. The
17 two requirements that are crucial to the operation of dialysis
18 treatment are electricity and water. As a result, any power



1 outage forces many dialysis patients to miss their regular
2 treatment appointments, which puts them at serious risk for
3 blood poisoning.

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

8 SECTION 2. Beginning January 1, 2012, each dialysis center
9 operating in the State shall have a backup emergency generator
10 with sufficient capacity to provide electricity necessary to
11 sustain dialysis treatments while also maintaining water
12 pressure levels required to operate the dialysis treatment
13 system. Each dialysis center shall maintain enough fuel on the
14 premises to maintain the operation of its backup generator for
15 at least forty-eight hours.

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

20 SECTION 4. The department of health shall submit a report
21 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
22 convening of the regular session of 2013, identifying each



H.B. NO. 278

1 dialysis center operating in the State and reporting whether
 2 each dialysis center has complied with the requirements of this
 3 Act.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
 5

INTRODUCED BY:

Paw Choy
Marilyn B Lee
John M. Wingo
Linda Lchizame
Dan W. King
John R. ...
Gregory ...
John ...
...

JAN 21 2011



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 each center's water treatment system by 01/01/11. DOH to establish procedures.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

