
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of the
2 island of Maui would greatly benefit from the addition of a
3 Maalaea-based special response vehicle to augment the Maui
4 county emergency medical services system for residents of west
5 and south Maui. The population of these districts has
6 significantly increased over the years, which has corresponded
7 with a steady increase of approximately one thousand calls per
8 year for emergency medical services.

9 The legislature further finds that the population growth
10 and increase in call volume in south and west Maui affect the
11 timely response capabilities of the two ambulances that serve
12 residents in these districts. For example, the amount of time
13 needed to reach the only acute care hospital on Maui may be
14 forty-five minutes or more if the ambulance that responds to a
15 call for emergency medical services must respond from an "out-
16 of-district" location.

17 The legislature additionally finds that a timely response
18 to a 911 call is critical to ensure the best possible outcome.



1 Unfortunately, these out-of-district responses, especially into
2 west and south Maui, have increased twenty-five per cent over
3 the past four years. Currently, if the Lahaina and Napili
4 ambulances are out on a call and another emergency call comes in
5 for the west side of Maui, the Kihei station responds if
6 available, potentially leaving the south side of Maui
7 "uncovered" during that time. The removal of ambulances from
8 their own districts creates a domino effect of "missing"
9 emergency medical services to other areas.

10 The legislature also finds that the last time new emergency
11 medical services ambulance units were added on Maui was in 2004.
12 A special emergency medical response vehicle unit for the Maui
13 emergency medical services system that is based in Maalaea,
14 would substantially address the steady increase in calls for
15 emergency medical services and out-of-district responses.
16 Modeled after successful units and strategies used on Oahu and
17 the mainland, this special response vehicle unit will be
18 equipped with appropriate life-saving, emergency response
19 equipment and staffed by advanced life support-trained
20 paramedics. Although it will not be used for patient transport,
21 a special response vehicle will arrive at the scene if the
22 resident ambulances are out of the district, provide advanced



1 life support services to augment the basic services of fire
2 department first responders, or quickly arrive to a remote area
3 while waiting for the medevac helicopter. This full complement
4 of advanced life support care will save lives and stabilize
5 patients in the crucial initial stage of injury, illness, or
6 cardiac arrest.

7 The legislature finds that a new special emergency medical
8 response vehicle unit will help protect the health of residents
9 of and visitors to the island of Maui by supporting the two
10 existing ambulance units in each of the busiest regions of west
11 and south Maui, as well as by being available to assist central
12 Maui.

13 Coupled with Maui's significant growth and aging
14 population, the addition of a special response vehicle is needed
15 and cost-effective. An advanced life support staffed ambulance
16 unit costs approximately \$1,200,000, and a special response
17 vehicle unit costs approximately \$600,000. A special response
18 vehicle unit is a more effective use of scarce resources and
19 well worth the investment, providing better emergency medical
20 services coverage and response to emergency situations. From
21 its base in Maalaea, the special emergency medical response
22 vehicle unit will be well situated to arrive at calls in the



1 west, south, or central districts of Maui in fifteen minutes or
2 less.

3 The legislature concludes that as Maui's population and
4 demand for healthcare continue to grow, a Maalaea-based special
5 emergency medical response vehicle unit will emerge as a key
6 component of effective pre-hospital medicine on Maui.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
8 establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week, special
9 emergency medical response vehicle unit to be based in the
10 Maalaea area on Maui, including the acquisition of a vehicle,
11 purchase of equipment, and personnel costs for twenty-four-hour,
12 seven-days-a-week staffing by a state-licensed paramedic.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the emergency
14 medical services special fund the sum of \$600,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
17 2014-2015 to establish and fund a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-
18 a-week, special emergency medical response vehicle unit based in
19 the Maalaea area on Maui, including the acquisition of a
20 vehicle, purchase of equipment, and personnel costs, that is
21 appropriately staffed at all times by a state-licensed paramedic



1 and equipped with all appropriate life-saving, emergency
2 response equipment.

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

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Response Vehicle Unit; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds out of the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund to establish and fund a special emergency medical response vehicle unit based in the Maalaea area on Maui, including acquisition of a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB379 HD1)

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

