THE SENATE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013 STATE OF HAWAII S.B. NO. 498

JAN 1 8 2013

### 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 county emergency medical services system for residents of west 4 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 year for emergency medical services. 8

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 timeline to 13 reach the only acute care hospital on Maui may be forty-five 14 minutes or more if the ambulance that responds to a call for emergency medical services must respond from an "out-of-15 16 district" location.

17 The legislature additionally finds that a timely response 18 to a 911 call is critical to ensure the best possible outcome. 2013-0568 SB SMA-1.doc

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

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



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

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

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

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calls in the west, south, or central districts of Maui in
fifteen minutes or less.

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

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to 7 establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week, special 8 9 emergency medical response vehicle unit to be based in the Maalaea area on Maui, including acquisition of a vehicle, 10 equipment, and personnel costs for twenty-four-hour, seven-days-11 12 a-week staffing by a paramedic trained in advanced life support. There is appropriated out of the emergency 13 SECTION 2. medical services special fund the sum of \$600,000 or so much 14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the 15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 16 17 2014-2015 to establish and fund a twenty-four-hour, seven-daysa-week, special emergency medical response vehicle unit based in 18 the Maalaea area on Maui, including acquisition of a vehicle, 19 equipment, and personnel costs, that is appropriately staffed at 20 21 all times by a paramedic trained in advanced life support and



equipped with all appropriate life-saving, emergency response 1

2 equipment.

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

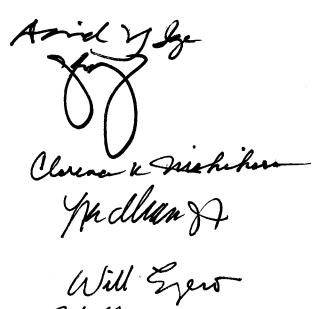
5 This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013. SECTION 3.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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4-12



#### Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Special Emergency Medical Response Vehicle Unit; Appropriation

#### Description:

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Appropriates funds out of the emergency medical services special fund to establish and fund a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-aweek, special emergency medical response vehicle unit based in the Maalaea area on Maui, including acquisition of a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs, that is appropriately staffed at all times by a paramedic trained in advanced life support and equipped with all appropriate life-saving; emergency response equipment.

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