
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 emergency medical response vehicle to
4 augment the Maui county emergency medical services system for
5 residents of west and south Maui. The population of these
6 districts has significantly increased over the years, which has
7 corresponded with a steady increase of approximately one
8 thousand calls per 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 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
15 emergency medical services must respond from an out-of-district
16 location.

17 The legislature additionally finds that a timely response
18 to a 911 call is critical to increase the likelihood of a good



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

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



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

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

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



1 its base in Maalaea, the special emergency medical response
2 vehicle unit will be well situated to arrive at calls in the
3 west, south, or central districts of Maui in fifteen minutes or
4 less.

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

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

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



1 times by state-certified emergency medical service personnel,
2 including acquisition of a vehicle, equipment, and personnel
3 costs.

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

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



Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds out of the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund to establish and fund a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week, special emergency medical response vehicle unit based in Maalaea, Maui, including acquisition of a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs. (CD1)

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