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# 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 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-  
16 district" 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 response vehicle unit will be equipped with  
19 appropriate life-saving, emergency response equipment and  
20 staffed by a state licensed paramedic. Although it will not be  
21 used for patient transport, it 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 the new special emergency  
8 medical response vehicle unit will help reduce death and  
9 disability among residents and visitors on the island of Maui by  
10 supporting the two existing ambulance units in each of the  
11 busiest regions of west and south Maui, as well as by being  
12 available to assist central 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. Whereas an advanced life support staffed  
16 ambulance unit costs approximately \$1,200,000, a special  
17 response vehicle unit costs approximately \$600,000. The special  
18 response vehicle unit is a more effective use of scarce  
19 resources, well worth the investment, and provides better  
20 emergency medical services coverage and response to emergency  
21 situations. From its base in Maalaea, the special emergency  
22 medical response vehicle unit will be well situated to arrive at



1 calls in the west, south, or central districts of Maui in  
2 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.

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 acquisition of a vehicle,  
11 equipment, and personnel costs for twenty-four-hour, seven-days-  
12 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 \$ 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 acquisition of a vehicle,  
20 equipment, and personnel costs, that is appropriately staffed at  
21 all times by a state licensed paramedic and equipped with all  
22 appropriate life-saving, emergency response equipment.



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

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



**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 the Maalaea area on Maui, including acquisition of a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs, that is appropriately staffed at all times by a state licensed paramedic and equipped with all appropriate life-saving, emergency response equipment.

Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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

