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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE  
PUNA DISTRICT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The district of Puna is approximately five  
2 hundred square miles in area and has a population of 45,326  
3 according to the 2010 census. By comparison, Puna is slightly  
4 smaller than the island of Kauai in size and roughly twenty  
5 thousand less in population. Puna has become the fastest  
6 growing district in the State of Hawaii, with a population  
7 increase of forty-four per cent since 2000. Over the next  
8 fifteen years the population of Puna is expected to be about  
9 75,000. This population growth has significantly impacted the  
10 medic units in the districts of Puna and Hilo and will continue  
11 to do so. The Hawaii fire department plans to open an  
12 additional medic unit in Puna that is equipped with advanced  
13 life support.

14           The legislature finds that access to primary health care in  
15 Puna is challenging for the community, since primary care  
16 services are as much as thirty miles away for many residents.  
17 When coupled with economic and transportation challenges, Hawaii



1 county emergency medical services has become the access point  
2 for health care in Puna.

3 Emergency medical services in Puna are provided by Hawaii  
4 fire department's Medic 5 and 10 units, based in Keaau and Pahoa  
5 fire stations, respectively. These units are strategically  
6 based to serve the bulk of Puna's population, handling ninety-  
7 one per cent of emergency medical services calls in Puna. Medic  
8 19 at the Volcano fire station serves a less populated area of  
9 Puna but fills a wide gap between Keaau and Kau.

10 According to statistics of the Hawaii fire department,  
11 since 2007 there has been a fifty per cent increase in responses  
12 from Medics 1 and 3, based in Hilo, into the Puna district, and  
13 there are numerous times when the majority of east Hawaii's  
14 Medics 1, 3, 5, 10, and 19 are covering calls in the Puna  
15 district, which leaves Hilo without adequate emergency medical  
16 services. From 2007 to 2008, the Puna district accounted for  
17 3,970 or twenty-one per cent of the emergency medical service  
18 calls in Hawaii county. From 2012 to 2013, this figure  
19 increased to 4,994 or twenty-eight per cent of Hawaii county's  
20 911 calls.

21 The legislature further finds that Puna needs an emergency  
22 medical services unit equipped with advanced life support in the



1 interests of protecting the public health and safety of Puna  
2 residents.

3 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for a  
4 grant-in-aid to the Hawaii fire department to add an emergency  
5 medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to  
6 serve the Puna district.

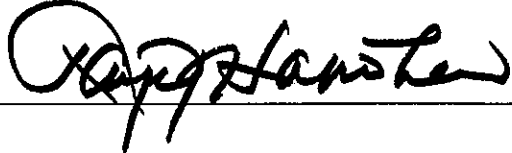
7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for a  
10 grant-in-aid to the Hawaii fire department for an additional  
11 emergency medical services unit, equipped with advanced life  
12 support, including costs for personnel and equipment, to serve  
13 the Puna district.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
15 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
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JAN 22 2014



# H.B. NO. 2360

**Report Title:**

Hawaii County Emergency Medical Services; Puna District; Grant-in-Aid; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for a grant-in-aid to the Hawaii fire department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna district.

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