

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of the
2 island of Hawaii would greatly benefit from the addition of two
3 special emergency medical response vehicles to augment the
4 Hawaii county emergency medical services system for residents of
5 the Puna and Makalei areas. The populations of these areas have
6 significantly increased over the years, which has corresponded
7 with a steady increase in calls for emergency medical services.

8 The legislature further finds that access to primary health
9 care in Puna and Makalei is challenging for the communities.
10 For many residents, primary care services are as many as thirty
11 miles away. Coupled with economic and transportation
12 challenges, emergency medical services have become the access
13 point for health care to many residents.

14 Due to the lack of resources, it has become common for
15 medics to have up to ten transports in a twenty-four hour shift.
16 The potential for fatigue resulting in errors in judgment,
17 driving, and overall safety are of great concern for personnel
18 and residents.



1 The legislature further finds that new special emergency
2 medical response vehicle units will help reduce death and
3 disability among residents and visitors on the island of Hawaii.
4 A timely response to a 911 call is critical to increase the
5 likelihood of successful outcomes for injured or sick
6 individuals. Given the island's significant growth and aging
7 population, two new special emergency medical response vehicle
8 units are needed and will be cost-effective.

9 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
10 establish two special emergency medical response vehicle units
11 to be based in the Puna and Makalei areas on the island of
12 Hawaii, including acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and
13 personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical service
14 personnel.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
18 establish and fund two special emergency medical response
19 vehicle units based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii,
20 including acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and personnel
21 costs for state-certified emergency medical service personnel.



S.B. NO. 2348

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

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

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S.B. NO. 2348

Report Title:

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

Description:

Makes an appropriation to establish and fund two special emergency medical response vehicle units based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii, including acquisition of vehicles, equipment and personnel costs.

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