

JAN 17 2014

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

11 According to statistics of the Hawaii county fire
12 department, since 2007 there has been a fifty per cent increase
13 in responses from Medics 1 and 3 into the Puna district, and
14 there are numerous times when the majority of east Hawaii's
15 Medics 1, 3, 5, 10, and 19 are covering calls in the Puna
16 district, which leaves Hilo without adequate emergency medical
17 services. From 2007 to 2008, the Puna district accounted for
18 3,970 or twenty-one per cent of the emergency medical service
19 calls in Hawaii county. From 2012 to 2013, this figure
20 increased to 4,994 or twenty-eight per cent of Hawaii county's
21 911 calls.



1 The legislature further finds that Puna needs an emergency
2 medical services unit equipped with advanced life support in the
3 interests of protecting the public health and safety of Puna
4 residents.

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

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

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2644

Report Title:

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

Description:

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

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