
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 response times for
2 emergency medical services significantly impact the overall time
3 it takes to transport patients to the emergency room to receive
4 treatment. The National Fire Protection Association, which
5 creates standards for fire services, and has determined that
6 emergency medical services medic unit crews must respond to
7 scenes of emergency within eight minutes. According to the
8 association's publication, NFPA 1710: Standard for the
9 Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations,
10 Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations, "this
11 requirement is based on experience, expert consensus and
12 science. Many studies note the role of time and the delivery of
13 early defibrillation in patient survival due to heart attacks
14 and cardiac arrest which are the most time-critical, resource-
15 intensive medical emergency events to which fire departments
16 respond." Trauma cases are also very time-sensitive, and the
17 ability of emergency medical services crews to rapidly transport



1 patients to medical facilities for treatment often makes the
2 difference between life and death.

3 The legislature further finds that on the island of Hawaii,
4 North Kona's new Makalei fire station fills a firefighting gap
5 on highway 190 between the Kailua fire station and the Waikoloa
6 fire station. The Makalei station has a fire engine, is home to
7 a hazardous materials response unit, and serves a community of
8 approximately forty-five thousand residents in one of the
9 fastest-growing districts in the State. Current emergency
10 medical services responses to North Kona, however, come from the
11 medic seven unit based at the Kailua fire station, the medic
12 twelve unit based at the Keauhou fire station, and the medic
13 sixteen unit based at the Waikoloa fire station. These
14 facilities are located eight, fifteen, and twenty miles from
15 North Kona, respectively. Medics seven and twelve account for
16 seventeen per cent of the emergency medical services calls on
17 the island, and in the best circumstances will respond to North
18 Kona in eight to fifteen minutes. If neither of these units are
19 available, North Kona must rely upon medic sixteen, which
20 usually takes twenty-five to thirty minutes to respond.



1 Further, the approximate transport time from North Kona to Kona
2 community hospital is twenty to thirty minutes.

3 The legislature further finds that given the current
4 availability of emergency medical services in North Kona,
5 patients who need those services and time-sensitive definitive
6 treatment are at risk of losing their health or their lives.

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the
8 operation of emergency medical services for North Kona.

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 2016-2017 for
12 the operation of emergency medical services for North Kona.

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

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: Cindy Evans
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JAN 26 2016



H.B. NO. 2529

Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; North Kona; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for emergency medical services for North Kona.

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