

JAN 27 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the city and county
2 of Honolulu emergency medical services ran almost ninety
3 thousand calls in 2015. Of these calls, many are from repeat
4 callers who call multiple times per day for issues that do not
5 need emergency services, but rather general assistance. As the
6 call volume rises each year and the number of ambulance stations
7 remains the same, it is critical to establish community
8 paramedic services to provide the appropriate services for these
9 repeat callers who would otherwise be using resources that could
10 best serve individuals who need emergency medical services.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate
12 funds for community paramedic services to expand the provision
13 of emergency medical services and assist in providing more
14 timely medical services to the community, improving overall
15 quality of life and health.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
3 to read as follows:

4 "PART . COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES

5 §321-A Definitions. As used in this part, unless the
6 context clearly requires otherwise:

7 "Department" means the department of health.

8 "Eligible recipient" means:

- 9 (1) An individual who has received hospital emergency
10 services three or more times in a period of four
11 consecutive months in the past twelve months; or
12 (2) An individual who has been identified by the
13 individual's primary care physician as an individual
14 for whom community paramedic services pursuant to
15 section 321-B would likely prevent admission to or
16 would allow discharge from a nursing facility or would
17 likely prevent readmission to a hospital or nursing
18 facility.

19 "Emergency medical technician-community paramedic" or
20 "community paramedic" means a person who is certified as an
21 emergency medical technician and who meets the requirements for



1 additional certification as a community paramedic pursuant to
2 part II of chapter 453.

3 §321-B Community paramedic services; scope of practice;
4 patient care plan. (a) A community paramedic shall practice in
5 accordance with protocols and supervisory standards established
6 by the department pursuant to this part.

7 (b) The department shall determine the scope of the
8 practice of community paramedic services, which shall include
9 but not be limited to health assessment, chronic disease
10 monitoring and education, medication compliance, immunizations
11 and vaccinations, laboratory specimen collection, hospital
12 discharge follow-up care, and minor medical procedures approved
13 by the department.

14 (c) A community paramedic may provide community paramedic
15 services to eligible recipients as directed by a patient care
16 plan if the plan has been developed by the patient's primary
17 care physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a
18 physician assistant, in conjunction with relevant local health
19 care providers. The patient care plan shall ensure that the
20 services provided by the community paramedic are consistent with
21 the services offered by the patient's health care home, if one



1 exists, that the patient receives the necessary services, and
2 that there is no duplication of services to the patient.

3 (d) Services provided by a community paramedic to an
4 eligible recipient who is also receiving care coordination
5 services shall be in consultation with the providers of the
6 recipient's care coordination services.

7 (e) A community paramedic shall be subject to all
8 certification, disciplinary, complaint, and other regulatory
9 requirements that apply to an emergency medical technician under
10 part II of chapter 453.

11 §321-C Community paramedic services covered; medical
12 assistance program. (a) The director of health shall determine
13 the community paramedic services to include under medical
14 assistance coverage. In determining the community paramedic
15 services to include under medical assistance coverage, the
16 director of health shall consider the potential of hospital
17 admittance and emergency room utilization reductions as well as
18 increased access to quality care in rural communities.

19 (b) The director of health shall evaluate the effect of
20 medical assistance coverage of community paramedic services on
21 the cost and quality of care and the coordination of these



1 services with health care home services. The director shall
2 require medical assistance enrolled providers that employ or
3 contract with community paramedics to provide to the director,
4 in the form and manner specified by the director, the
5 utilization, cost, and quality data necessary to conduct this
6 evaluation.

7 (c) Payment for services provided by a community paramedic
8 under this part shall be a part of a care plan ordered by a
9 primary care physician in consultation with the medical director
10 of an ambulance service and must be billed by an eligible
11 provider enrolled in medical assistance that employs or
12 contracts with the community paramedic. The care plan shall
13 ensure that the services provided by a community paramedic are
14 coordinated with other community health providers and local
15 public health agencies and that community paramedic services do
16 no duplicate services already provided to the eligible
17 recipient, including home health and waiver services.

18 (d) The director of health, in consultation with
19 representatives of emergency medical service providers,
20 physicians, public health nurses, and local public health



1 agencies, shall determine payment rates for community paramedic
2 services performed by community paramedics.

3 (e) Payment for services provided by a community paramedic
4 shall be:

5 (1) Ordered by an ambulance medical director;

6 (2) Part of a patient care plan that has been developed in
7 coordination with the eligible recipient's primary
8 care physician and relevant local health care
9 providers; and

10 (3) Billed by an eligible medical assistance enrolled
11 provider that employs or contracts with the community
12 paramedic."

13 SECTION 3. Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding two new sections to part II to be
15 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

16 "§453- Community paramedic services personnel. The
17 practice of any community paramedic services, as determined by
18 the department of health pursuant to part of chapter 321,
19 by any individual shall be subject to certification under this
20 part.



1 §453- Certification of community paramedic personnel.

2 (a) To be eligible for certification by the Hawaii medical
3 board as a community paramedic, as defined in section 321-A, an
4 individual shall:

- 5 (1) Be currently certified as an emergency medical
6 technician;
- 7 (2) Have two years of full-time service, or the part-time
8 equivalent, as an emergency medical technician;
- 9 (3) Have successfully completed a community paramedic
10 training program that has been approved by the Hawaii
11 medical board or accredited by a board-approved
12 national accreditation organization; provided that the
13 training program shall include clinical experience
14 that is provided under the supervision of an emergency
15 medical services medical director, advanced practice
16 registered nurse, physician assistant, or public
17 health nurse operating under the direct authority of a
18 local unit of government;
- 19 (4) Have completed a board-approved application form; and
- 20 (5) Meet all other requirements set by the Hawaii medical
21 board.



1 (b) The Hawaii medical board shall provide standard
2 application forms for the certification of community paramedics
3 and shall provide for the periodic renewal of such
4 certification. The Hawaii medical board shall assess a fee for
5 such application, certification, and renewal. The Hawaii
6 medical board shall provide for the revocation, suspension, or
7 limitation of certification in the event an individual once
8 certified under this section fails to maintain or meet
9 requirements for continued certification, or for good cause
10 shown."

11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$410,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to provide
14 community paramedic services pursuant to this Act, including
15 expenses related to personnel, equipment, and training.

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

18 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
19 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
20 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
21 the new sections in this Act.



S.B. NO. 2779

1 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

3

INTRODUCED BY: *Randy H. Beck*



S.B. NO. 2779

Report Title:

Community Paramedic; Emergency Medical Services; Certification; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes community paramedic services to expand the provision of emergency medical services and assist in providing more timely medical services to the community. Specifies community paramedic services covered under medical assistance. Appropriates funds for community paramedic services.

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