

JAN 27 2016

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 the Puna district on
2 the island of Hawaii is approximately five hundred square miles
3 and according to a 2010 census, has a population of 45,326.
4 Puna has become the fastest growing district in the State, with
5 a population increase of forty-four per cent since 2000. Over
6 the next fifteen years the population of Puna is expected to be
7 approximately seventy-five thousand. This population growth has
8 significantly impacted the Hawaii county fire department's
9 emergency medical services medic units in Puna and Hilo.

10 The legislature further finds that the residents of Puna
11 are faced with various economic and transportation challenges.
12 Due to the risk of being inundated by lava, portions of Puna are
13 extremely vulnerable and threatened with inaccessibility.
14 Access to health care in Puna is also difficult because many
15 Puna residents are up to thirty miles away from the nearest
16 primary care provider.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the Hawaii county
2 fire department's emergency medical services has become the
3 health care access point for many Puna residents. In Hawaii
4 county from 2015 to 2016, the Puna district accounted for thirty
5 per cent of emergency medical service calls. Since 2007, there
6 has been a fifty per cent increase in responses from Hilo medic
7 units into the Puna district, leaving Hilo without adequate
8 emergency medical services. Based in the Keaau and Pahoa fire
9 stations, two emergency medical services units handle ninety-one
10 per cent of the emergency medical services calls from Puna
11 residents and the paramedics face progressive burnout due to
12 long shifts.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
14 establish and staff an advanced life support medic unit in Puna
15 on the island of Hawaii.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to
19 establish and staff an advanced life support medic unit in Puna
20 on the island of Hawaii.



S.B. NO. 2966

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, 2016.

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S.B. NO. 2966

Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Puna; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to establish and staff an advanced life support medic unit in Puna on the island of Hawaii.

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