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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of the  
3 island of Hawaii would greatly benefit from the addition of an  
4 advanced life support ambulance to augment the Hawaii county  
5 emergency medical services system for residents of the Makalei  
6 area. The population of this area has significantly increased  
7 over the years, which has corresponded with a steady increase in  
8 calls for emergency medical services.

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

15 Due to the lack of resources, it has become common for  
16 medics to have up to ten transports in a twenty-four hour shift.  
17 The potential for fatigue resulting in errors in judgment,



1 driving, and overall safety are of great concern for personnel  
2 and residents.

3 The legislature further finds that a new advanced life  
4 support ambulance will help reduce death and disability among  
5 residents and visitors on the island of Hawaii. A timely  
6 response to a 911 call is critical to increase the likelihood of  
7 successful outcomes for injured or sick individuals. Given the  
8 island's significant growth and aging population, an advanced  
9 life support ambulance is needed and will be cost-effective.

10 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for an  
11 advanced life support ambulance to be based in the Makalei area  
12 on the island of Hawaii and to be used during daily peak hours  
13 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including the acquisition of a  
14 vehicle and equipment, and funding personnel costs for state-  
15 certified emergency medical service personnel.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
20 2016-2017 for an advanced life support ambulance to be:

21 (1) Based in Makalei on the island of Hawaii; and



1 (2) Used during daily peak hours from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00  
2 p.m.;

3 and to include the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment, and  
4 funding personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical  
5 service personnel.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of health for the purposes of this part.

8 PART II

9 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that Puna community  
10 residents on the island of Hawaii are in great need of an  
11 additional advanced life support ambulance to augment the  
12 current Hawaii county fire department's emergency medical  
13 services system. Puna has become the fastest growing district  
14 in the State, with a current population of more than forty-five  
15 thousand individuals and a projected population to surge to  
16 approximately seventy-five thousand individuals within the next  
17 fifteen years. Because of the economic and transportation  
18 challenges of the Puna community, the Hawaii county fire  
19 department's emergency medical services has become the access  
20 point for health care to many in Puna.



1           Recent analysis of Hawaii county fire department data shows  
2 that there have been approximately one hundred eighty emergency  
3 medical services incidents per month over the past five years  
4 within that area.

5           Currently, the Hawaii county fire department has three  
6 ambulances based at the Keaau and Pahoa fire stations, including  
7 an emergency medical services unit located at the Pahoa village  
8 fire station, which was created in anticipation of the impending  
9 lava flow inundation area.

10          The legislature finds that the ongoing lava flow has  
11 exacerbated the need to serve the nearly ten thousand residents  
12 within the projected impact area. Critical transportation  
13 infrastructure continues to be affected, which will result in  
14 delayed emergency medical care for the residents of Puna if  
15 additional resources are not provided. The travel time to Hilo,  
16 once the flow crosses Highway 130, is expected to increase from  
17 the current average of thirty minutes to two hours.

18          The legislature further finds that an additional advanced  
19 life support ambulance will help reduce death and disability  
20 among residents and visitors on the island of Hawaii. A timely



1 response to a 911 call is critical to increase the likelihood of  
2 successful outcomes for injured or sick individuals.

3 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to  
4 establish an advanced life support ambulance to be based in Puna  
5 on the island of Hawaii, including through acquiring a vehicle  
6 and equipment and funding personnel costs for state-certified  
7 emergency medical services personnel.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the emergency  
9 medical services special fund the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2016-2017 to establish an advanced life support ambulance based  
13 in Puna on the island of Hawaii, including acquisition of a  
14 vehicle and equipment and personnel costs for state-certified  
15 emergency medical services personnel.

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

18 PART III

19 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that the population of  
20 the area of Kakaako in the city and county of Honolulu has  
21 recently undergone a dramatic increase in population. There has



1 been the development of numerous residential condominiums and an  
2 increase in businesses serving the residents. Correspondingly,  
3 there has been a steady and marked increase of calls for  
4 emergency medical services in the Kakaako area.

5 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the  
6 department of health for the purchase of an ambulance vehicle  
7 and the operational costs for one ambulance unit, including  
8 equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified  
9 emergency medical service personnel.

10 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2016-2017 for the purchase of an ambulance vehicle and the  
15 operational costs for one ambulance unit, including equipment,  
16 supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified emergency  
17 medical service personnel to service the area of Kakaako in the  
18 city and county of Honolulu.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
20 of health for the purposes of this part.



1 PART IV

2 SECTION 7. The legislature finds that more emergency  
3 services are needed in the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt  
4 Lake, and Foster Village areas on the island of Oahu. As calls  
5 for emergency response services increase, a greater burden is  
6 placed on the city and county of Honolulu emergency medical  
7 services division to respond to emergency calls in these areas.  
8 This increased workload threatens the ability of the division to  
9 provide acceptable levels of emergency medical services.

10 Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village  
11 are high density areas with a sizable distance between the two  
12 nearest hospital units, Kuakini Hospital in Liliha and Pali Momi  
13 Hospital in Aiea. In 2014 alone, these areas experienced 4,418  
14 calls for emergency medical services. Callers often experience  
15 long response times, which increased from 8.46 minutes in 2011  
16 to 9.4 minutes in 2014.

17 The purpose of this part is to appropriate moneys to the  
18 department of health to assist the city and county of Honolulu  
19 emergency medical services division with expanding emergency  
20 medical services and ambulance services in the above communities  
21 to operate an additional emergency medical service unit.



1 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
5 2016-2017 to assist the city and county of Honolulu emergency  
6 medical services division with expanding emergency medical  
7 services and ambulance services in the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red  
8 Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village communities to operate an  
9 additional emergency medical service unit.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of health for the purposes of this part.

12 PART V

13 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.





**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support; Ambulances

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for advanced life support ambulances based in Makalei and Puna on the island of Hawaii; an ambulance vehicle and operational costs to service Kakaako on the island of Oahu; and to operate an additional emergency medical service unit for the City and County of Honolulu. (SB298 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

