

JAN 20 2017

S.B. NO. 820

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# 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 Puna community  
2 residents on the island of Hawaii are in great need of an  
3 additional advanced life support ambulance to augment the  
4 current Hawaii county fire department's emergency medical  
5 services system. Puna has become the fastest growing district  
6 in the State, with a current population of more than forty-five  
7 thousand individuals and a projected population to surge to  
8 approximately seventy-five thousand individuals within the next  
9 fifteen years. Because of the geographic, economic, and  
10 transportation challenges of the Puna community, the Hawaii  
11 county fire department's emergency medical services has become  
12 the access point for health care to many in Puna. The  
13 progressive increase in population has led to a thirty-seven per  
14 cent increase in 911 emergency medical services calls over the  
15 past eight years.

16           Recent analysis of Hawaii county fire department data shows  
17 that there have been approximately four hundred seventy-six



1 emergency medical services incidents per month in the district  
2 of Puna. Due to long response and transport times, a single  
3 emergency response call may take over two hours to complete; it  
4 has become common for paramedics to have ten or more incident  
5 transports in one twenty-four hour shift, potentially resulting  
6 in twenty hours or more of continuous work within one twenty-  
7 four hour period. The potential for fatigue resulting in errors  
8 in judgment, driving, and overall safety are of great concern  
9 for personnel and residents.

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

17 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for an  
18 advanced life support ambulance to be based out of the Pahoa  
19 fire station in the Puna area on the island of Hawaii, including  
20 the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment, and funding



1 personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services  
2 personnel.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2018-2019 for an advanced life support ambulance to be  
8 based at the Pahoia fire station in Puna on the island of Hawaii,  
9 including the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment, and  
10 funding personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical  
11 services personnel.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
13 of health for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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# S.B. NO. 820

**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulance;  
Puna; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for an advanced life support ambulance to be based at the Pahoa fire station in Puna on the island of Hawaii, including the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment, and funding personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

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