

JAN 18 2019

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 residents of the
2 island of Hawaii would greatly benefit from the addition of two
3 advanced life support ambulances to augment the Hawaii county
4 emergency medical services system for residents of the Puna and
5 Makalei areas. The populations of these areas have
6 significantly increased over the years, which has corresponded
7 with a steady increase in calls for emergency medical services.

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

14 Due to the lack of resources, it has become common for
15 paramedics to respond to as many as ten calls for emergency
16 medical transportation during a twenty-four hour shift. The
17 potential for fatigue resulting in errors in judgment, driving,



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

3 The legislature further finds that new advanced life
4 support ambulances 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 increasing the likelihood
7 of successful outcomes for injured or sick individuals. Given
8 the island's significant growth and aging population, two new
9 advanced life support ambulances are needed and will be cost-
10 effective.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
12 establish two advanced life support ambulances to be based in
13 the Puna and Makalei areas on the island of Hawaii, including
14 the acquisition of vehicles and equipment and personnel costs
15 for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the emergency
17 medical services special fund the sum of \$100,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2020-2021 to establish and fund two advanced life support
21 ambulances based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii,



S.B. NO. 877

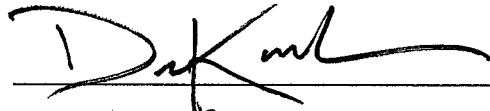


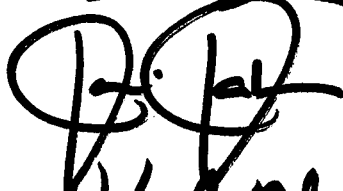

1 including the acquisition of vehicles and equipment and
2 personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services
3 personnel.

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

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 877

Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulances;
Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to establish and fund two advanced life support ambulances based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii, including acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and personnel costs.

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