
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. This part shall be known and may be cited as
3 "Keo's Law".

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the department of
5 health is responsible for administering and maintaining the
6 comprehensive state emergency medical service system, or state
7 emergency medical system. Administration of the system by a
8 state agency ensures that all emergency services, including
9 ground and air ambulance services conducted by or under the
10 authorization of the department of health or any county, are
11 consistent with part XVIII of chapter 321, Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes.

13 As required by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, the
14 department of health contracted with the United States National
15 Highway Traffic Safety Administration under the guidance of a
16 steering committee to conduct a study of the state emergency
17 medical system. This review was conducted on October 14 to 18,



1 2019. The United States National Highway Traffic Safety
2 Administration identified the State's emergency medical system
3 as an essential public health service for both the State's
4 residents and visitors, which is a finding with which the
5 legislature concurs.

6 To fulfill the duties of its emergency medical services and
7 injury prevention system branch, it is imperative that the
8 department of health strive to ensure that the state emergency
9 medical system is efficiently maintained and effectively
10 provides emergency services.

11 Therefore, the purpose of this part is to:

- 12 (1) Require the department of health to work with the
13 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, or
14 other qualified entity, to conduct a comprehensive
15 statewide workforce study reviewing the entire state
16 emergency medical system to identify strengths and
17 issues and provide recommendations to increase the
18 emergency medical technician and paramedic workforce;
- 19 (2) Conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the entire
20 state emergency medical system to identify strengths
21 and any issues with the system and provide



1 recommendations to improve the economic function of
2 the system, including but not limited to centralized
3 purchasing and other cost-saving measures; and

4 (3) Require the auditor to conduct a comprehensive
5 management audit of the emergency medical services
6 department of the city and county of Honolulu.

7 SECTION 3. (a) No later than September 30, 2020, the
8 department of health shall work with the National Registry of
9 Emergency Medical Technicians, or other qualified entity, to
10 conduct a study of the state emergency medical system workforce.

11 (b) The purpose of the study shall be to identify
12 strengths and any issues with the system and provide
13 recommendations to increase the emergency medical technician and
14 paramedic workforce.

15 (c) The department of health shall submit a report of its
16 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
18 to the convening of the regular session of 2021.

19 (d) The department of health shall invite a representative
20 of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician study



1 team to brief the members of the legislature once the written
2 report is finalized.

3 SECTION 4. (a) No later than September 30, 2020, the
4 department of health shall conduct a comprehensive cost analysis
5 of the entire state emergency medical system.

6 (b) The purpose of the cost analysis shall be to identify
7 strengths and any issues with the system and provide
8 recommendations to improve the economic function of the system,
9 including but not limited to centralized purchasing and other
10 cost-saving measures.

11 (c) The department of health shall submit a report of its
12 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
14 to the convening of the regular session of 2021.

15 (d) The department of health shall invite a representative
16 from the cost analysis team to brief the members of the
17 legislature once the written report is finalized.

18 SECTION 5. (a) The auditor shall conduct a comprehensive
19 management audit of the emergency medical services department of
20 the city and county of Honolulu. The audit shall include but



1 not be limited to the actions, initiatives, and performance of
2 the emergency medical services department's duty to:

3 (1) Provide quality pre-hospital emergency medical care
4 and services to residents and visitors of Oahu,
5 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;

6 (2) Prevent injuries and promote safer, healthier
7 lifestyles; and

8 (3) Educate the public about emergency medical services.

9 (b) The audit shall recommend improvements to update,
10 redefine, or realign the emergency medical services department's
11 mission and organization based on the evolving needs and
12 efficiency of emergency medical services. The audit shall also
13 consider whether the emergency medical services department
14 should be afforded greater autonomy or seek out public-private
15 partnerships to increase efficiency and performance.

16 (c) In conducting the audit, the auditor shall solicit
17 comprehensive and, as necessary, confidential feedback from the
18 State's emergency medical services stakeholder community.

19 (d) The auditor shall submit a report to the legislature
20 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2021.

3 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
6 comprehensive workforce study of the state emergency medical
7 system workforce pursuant to section 3 of this Act.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 health for the purposes of this part.

10 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
13 comprehensive cost analysis of the entire state emergency
14 medical system pursuant to section 4 of this Act.

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

17 PART II

18 SECTION 8. The purpose of this part is to appropriate
19 funds for the expenses of the state emergency medical system.

20 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$15,776,780 or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
2 program ID HTH 730 to meet the collective bargaining
3 requirements and recurring personnel costs for service providers
4 contracted to provided pre-hospital emergency medical services
5 necessary to maintain the current level of pre-hospital
6 emergency medical system services.

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

9 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,997,494 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
12 program ID HTH 730 to meet other current expenses.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this part.

15 PART III

16 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Cost Analysis; Workforce
Development; Collective Bargaining; Audit; Appropriation

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the department of health to conduct comprehensive workforce and cost analysis reviews with federal partners to improve efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness. Requires the auditor to conduct a comprehensive management audit of the emergency medical services department of the city and county of Honolulu. Appropriates funds for collective bargaining increases and other current expenses. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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