
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION
SYSTEM BRANCH.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. The purpose of the state comprehensive
5 emergency medical system that is administered and maintained by
6 the department of health is to reduce medical emergency deaths,
7 injuries, and permanent long-term disability through the
8 implementation of a fully integrated, cohesive network of
9 components. This system is fully staffed by professionals
10 available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, on all
11 islands.

12 However, the department of health has determined that
13 various unbudgeted expenses require additional funding in order
14 to maintain the state comprehensive emergency medical system for
15 the general public. For the current fiscal year, there is an
16 operational budget shortfall of approximately \$6,400,000.
17 Failure to restore the shortfall is likely to cause cuts in

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1 emergency medical services, including reduced hours of
2 availability of ambulance services and emergency medical
3 personnel.

4 The budget shortfall resulted from incomplete biennium
5 funding for collective bargaining increases, lack of funding for
6 other current expenses related to three new emergency medical
7 vehicles approved in 2018, and pandemic-related budget
8 restrictions. While the department is examining several options
9 to improve the resiliency of the statewide system, reforms will
10 not be implemented soon enough to meet the anticipated costs for
11 the current fiscal year.

12 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to make an emergency
13 appropriation to provide funds for the department of health to
14 address collective bargaining and other current expenses related
15 to the state comprehensive emergency medical system.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,400,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
19 payroll and other current expenses shall be appropriated out of
20 the general fund, to address the budget shortfall for the state
21 comprehensive emergency medical system.

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1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 health for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

6

BY REQUEST

JAN 25 2021

H.B. NO. 999

Report Title:

Emergency Appropriation; Department of Health

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the state comprehensive emergency medical system for expenses related to collective bargaining and other current expenses. Effective upon approval.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH

TITLE: MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH.

PURPOSE: Request an emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2020-2021 to fund program costs related to collective bargaining increases and other current expenses.

MEANS: Emergency appropriation.

JUSTIFICATION: The Legislature appropriated funds for collective bargaining and other current expenses (three new ambulances authorized in 2018) for only the first biennium year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second biennium year appropriation was not authorized.

In the absence of sufficient funds, access to emergency medical services including ambulances, will be diminished.

Impact on the public: Access to emergency medical services will be diminished if the emergency appropriation is not authorized.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
N/A.

GENERAL FUND: \$6,400,000.

OTHER FUNDS: N/A.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: HTH-730.

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: Counties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.