

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



DEPT. COMM. 100-21  
KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.P.H., M.G.A.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

December 24, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,  
Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report providing an accounting of receipts and expenditures from the Trauma System Special Fund, pursuant to Section 321-22.5(f), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/departments-of-health-reports-to-2025-legislature/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Fink".

Kenneth S. Fink, M.D., M.P.H., M.G.A.  
Director of Health

Enclosures

c: Legislative Reference Bureau  
Hawaii State Library System (2)  
Hamilton Library

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE STATE  
OF HAWAII  
2025

PURSUANT TO SECTION 321-22.5 (f), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, REQUIRING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE RECEIPTS  
AND EXPENDITURES FROM THE TRAUMA SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

PREPARED BY:  
STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
December 2024

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 321-22.5 (f), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,  
TRAUMA SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND**

The trauma system special fund, established in section 321-22.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), was created by Act 305, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2006, to provide funds to support the continuing development and operation of a comprehensive state trauma system to ensure the availability of care for trauma patients in the state. Section 321-22.5(b), HRS, was amended by Act 276, SLH 2012, to include costs to staff and operate the State's injury prevention program. The statutory language, as enacted, is as follows:

§321-22.5 Trauma system special fund. (a) There is established within the state treasury a special fund to be known as the trauma system special fund to be administered and expended by the department of health. The fund shall consist of:

- (1) Surcharges collected pursuant to sections 291-15, 291C-2, and 291E-7;
- (2) Cigarette tax revenues designated under section 245-15;
- (3) Federal funds granted by Congress or executive order for the purpose of this chapter; provided that the acceptance and use of federal funds shall not commit state funds for services and shall not place an obligation upon the legislature to continue the purpose for which the federal funds are made available;
- (4) Funds appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, including grants-in-aid;
- (5) Grants, donations, and contributions from private or public sources for the purposes of the trauma system special fund; and
- (6) Interest on and other income from the fund, which shall be separately accounted for.

The unexpended and unencumbered moneys in the fund in excess of \$7,400,000 on June 30 of each fiscal year shall be transferred by the director of finance into and become a realization of the general fund on that date. Expenditures from the trauma system special fund shall be exempt from chapters 103D and 103F.

(b) The moneys in the trauma system special fund shall be used by the department to support the continuing development and operation of a comprehensive state trauma system. The trauma system special fund shall be used to subsidize the documented costs for the comprehensive state trauma system, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Costs of under-compensated and uncompensated trauma care incurred by hospitals providing care to trauma patients;

(2) Costs incurred by hospitals providing care to trauma patients to maintain on-call physicians for trauma care; and

(3) Costs to staff and operate the State's injury prevention program.

The money in the trauma system special fund shall not be used to supplant funding for trauma services authorized prior to July 1, 2006, and shall not be used for ambulance or medical air transport services.

(c) Disbursements from the fund shall be made in accordance with a methodology established by the department of health to calculate costs incurred by a hospital providing care to trauma patients that are eligible to receive reimbursement under subsection (d). The methodology shall take into account:

(1) Physician on-call coverage that is demonstrated to be essential for trauma services within the hospital;

(2) Equipment that is demonstrated to be essential for trauma services within the hospital;

(3) The creation of overflow or surge capacity to allow a trauma center to respond to mass casualties resulting from an act of terrorism or natural disaster; and

(4) All other hospital services and resources that are demonstrated to be essential for trauma services within the hospital.

The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(d) To receive reimbursement, a hospital providing care to trauma patients shall apply to the trauma system special fund on a form and in a manner approved by the department; provided that recipients of reimbursements from the trauma system special fund shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) The recipient of a reimbursement shall:

(A) Comply with applicable federal, state, and county laws;

(B) Comply with any other requirements the director may prescribe;

(C) Allow the director, the legislative bodies, and the state auditor access to records, reports, files, and other related documents, to the extent permissible under applicable state and federal law, so that the program, management, and fiscal practices of the recipient may be monitored and evaluated to ensure the proper and effective expenditure of public funds;

(D) Provide care to all injured patients regardless of their ability to pay; and

(E) Participate in data collection and peer review activities for the purpose of system evaluation and improvement of patient care; and

(2) Every reimbursement shall be monitored according to rules established by the director under chapter 91 to ensure compliance with this section.

(e) Necessary administrative expenses to carry out this section shall not exceed five per cent of the total amount collected in any given year.

(f) The department shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session that outlines the receipts of and expenditures from the trauma system special fund.

(g) For the purposes of this section:

"Comprehensive state trauma system" means a coordinated integrated system providing a spectrum of medical care throughout the State designed to reduce death and disability by appropriate and timely diagnosis and specialized treatment of injuries, which includes hospitals with successive levels of advanced capabilities for trauma care in accordance with nationally accepted standards established by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

"Hospital providing care to trauma patients" means a hospital with emergency services that receives and treats injured patients.

"Trauma care" means specialized medical care intended to reduce death and disability from injuries.

"Trauma center" means a facility verified by the American College of Surgeons or designated by the department applying American College of Surgeons recommendations as guidelines as being a level I, level II, level III, or level IV trauma center. Level I represents the highest level attainable by a verified trauma center, and level IV represents the lowest level attainable by a verified trauma center.

The statutory language for section 291-15, HRS is as follows:

[§291-15] Trauma system surcharge. (a) In addition to any other civil penalties ordered by the court, a person who violates any offense under this part may be ordered to pay a trauma system surcharge, provided that:

(1) The maximum of which may be \$10 if the violator is not already required to pay a trauma system surcharge pursuant to the violation of the offense; and

(2) The maximum of which may be \$100 if the violation is an offense under section 291-12.

(b) The surcharge shall not be ordered when the court determines that the defendant is unable to pay the surcharge.

(c) The person shall pay the surcharge to the clerk of the court. The surcharge shall be deposited with the state director of finance who shall transmit the surcharge to the trauma system special fund pursuant to section 321-22.5.

The statutory language for section 291C-2, HRS is as follows:

[§291C-2] Trauma system surcharge. (a) In addition to any other civil penalties ordered by the court, a person who violates any offense under this part may be ordered to pay a trauma system surcharge, provided that:

(1) The maximum of which may be \$10 if the violator is not already required to pay a trauma system surcharge pursuant to the violation of the offense;

(2) The maximum of which may be \$100 if the violation is an offense under sections 291C-12.6, 291C-13, 291C-14, 291C-15, 291C-16, 291C-103, 291C-104, or 291C-105;

(3) The maximum of which may be \$500 if the violation is an offense under section 291C-12; and

(4) The maximum of which may be \$250 if the violation is an offense under section 291C-12.5.

(b) The surcharge shall not be ordered when the court determines that the defendant is unable to pay the surcharge.

(c) The person shall pay the surcharge to the clerk of the court. The surcharge shall be deposited with the state director of finance who shall transmit the surcharge to the trauma system special fund pursuant to section 321-22.5.

The statutory language for section 291E-7, HRS is as follows:

§291E-7 Trauma system surcharge. (a) In addition to any other civil penalties ordered by the court, a person who violates any offense under this part may be ordered to pay a trauma system surcharge, provided that:

(1) The maximum of which may be \$10 if the violator is not already required to pay a trauma system surcharge pursuant to the violation of the offense;

(2) The maximum of which may be \$25 if the violation is an offense under section 291E-61(a)(1), 291E-61(a)(3), or 291E-61(a)(4);

(3) The maximum of which may be \$50 if the violation is an offense under section 291E-61(a)(2) or 291E-61.5 or if the offense under section 291E-61(a)(3) or 291E-61(a)(4) is a second or subsequent offense that occurred within five years of the first offense.

(b) The surcharge shall not be ordered when the court determines that the defendant is unable to pay the surcharge.

(c) The person shall pay the surcharge to the clerk of the court. The surcharge shall be deposited with the state director of finance who shall transmit the surcharge to the trauma system special fund pursuant to section 321-22.5.

The statutory language for section 245-15, HRS is as follows:

§245-15 Disposition of revenues. All moneys collected pursuant to this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury as state realizations to be kept and accounted for as provided by law; provided that, of the moneys collected under the tax imposed pursuant to:

(1) Section 245-3(a)(5), after September 30, 2006, and prior to October 1, 2007, 1.0 cent per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for capital expenditures;

(2) Section 245-3(a)(6), after September 30, 2007, and prior to October 1, 2008:

(A) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for capital expenditures;

(B) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund established pursuant to section 321-22.5; and

(C) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund established pursuant to section 321-234;

(3) Section 245-3(a)(7), after September 30, 2008, and prior to July 1, 2009:

(A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for capital expenditures;

(B) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

(C) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the community health centers special fund established pursuant to section 321-1.65; and

(D) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund established pursuant to section 321-234;

(4) Section 245-3(a)(8), after June 30, 2009, and prior to July 1, 2013:

(A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for capital expenditures;

(B) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

(C) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the community health centers special fund established pursuant to section 321-1.65; and

(D) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund established pursuant to section 321-234;

(5) Section 245-3(a)(11), after June 30, 2013, and prior to July 1, 2015:

(A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for capital expenditures;

(B) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

(C) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the community health centers special fund established pursuant to section 321-1.65; and

(D) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund established pursuant to section 321-234; and

(6) Section 245-3(a)(11), after June 30, 2015, and thereafter:

(A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for capital expenditures;

(B) 1.125 cents per cigarette, but not more than \$7,400,000 in a fiscal year, shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

(C) 1.25 cents per cigarette, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, shall be deposited to the credit of the community health centers special fund established pursuant to section 321-1.65; and



(D) 1.25 cents per cigarette, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund established pursuant to section 321-234.

The department shall provide an annual accounting of these dispositions to the legislature.

### Receipts

In FY 2025, revenue collected from 1.50 cents per cigarette sold pursuant to section 245-15, HRS, was deposited into the trauma system special fund. The trauma system special fund revenues from cigarette sales (source code 0012) in FY 2024 were \$4,841,298.40 <sup>1</sup>.

In Act 231, SLH 2008, moneys earmarked from surcharges that range between \$10 and \$500 for a variety of traffic violations shall be deposited to the trauma system special fund, effective July 1, 2008. The trauma system special fund revenues from traffic fines (source code 1550) in FY 2024 were \$56,803.64 <sup>1</sup>.

The trauma system special fund revenues from the investment pool account (source code 0288) in FY 2024 were \$272,160.94 <sup>1</sup>.

The trauma system special fund revenues (total) in FY 2024 were \$5,191,845.91 <sup>2</sup>.

### Expenditures

Expenditures in FY 2024 were \$6,295,090.69 <sup>2</sup>.

### Encumbrances

The remaining encumbrances as of December 20, 2024 are \$ 2,049,478.79.

### Achievements

Trauma special funds were distributed to support the eventual State designation of a ninth trauma center serving the populations of Windward Northern O‘ahu – Adventist Health Castle. This is in accordance with the recommendations from the American College of Surgeons 2017 State of Hawai‘i Trauma Systems Consultation Program visit.

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<sup>1</sup> FINANCIAL AND BUDGET INFORMATION – DATAMART – STATE OF HAWAII FAMIS – Revenue Listing By Source Code, FAMIS as of 01/08/2024

<sup>2</sup> MBP477-A, OPTION: 2, STATE OF HAWAII FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING & MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM STATUS OF CASH BALANCES AS OF 01/08/2024..