

ACT 85

S.B. NO. 2339

A Bill for an Act Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Health for the Emergency Medical Services System Branch.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

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

SECTION 2. Although funds were appropriated to the department of health for emergency medical services for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, a critical funding emergency now exists.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional funds for ambulance service contracts and other costs, and helicopter medical transport services.

An additional \$4,245,055 in general funds for fiscal year 2005-2006 is required to pay for unexpected ambulance service contract collective bargaining costs, fuel, and other ambulance service operating costs, and contract ambulance billing and collection costs. This emergency appropriation is necessary to comply with collective bargaining increases negotiated by ambulance service providers statewide, increases in fuel and other ambulance service operating costs, and increases in workload in contracted ambulance billing and collection services. In addition, the purpose of this Act is to request an increase in the expenditure ceiling of the emergency medical services special fund due to an increase in costs in contract ambulance services in Maui and Kauai counties.

An additional \$2,356,497 in general funds for fiscal year 2005-2006 is required to pay for Hawaii National Guard helicopter medical transport services. This emergency appropriation is necessary to cover the costs incurred by the National Guard in providing critical transport services that were previously provided by the United States Army.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,601,552 to the department of health, to be distributed as follows:

- (1) The sum of \$2,982,938, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2005-2006 for the city and county of Honolulu for ambu-

lance related services, including general operating expenses, equipment, and supplies;

- (2) The sum of \$763,965, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the county of Hawaii for ambulance related services, including general operating expenses, equipment, and supplies;
- (3) The sum of \$279,685, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purposes of payment to the American Medical Response-Maui;
- (4) The sum of \$126,121, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purposes of payment to the American Medical Response-Kauai to comply with negotiated collective bargaining agreements, increases in fuel costs, and other ambulance service operating costs;
- (5) The sum of \$92,346, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2005-2006 for emergency medical system contract ambulance billing and collection costs; and
- (6) The sum of \$2,356,497, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2005-2006 for costs incurred by the Hawaii Army National Guard in providing helicopter medical transport services on Oahu.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the emergency medical services special fund the sum of \$441,721, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2005-2006 to be used for:

- (1) Increased costs in contract ambulance services for the counties of Maui and Kauai; and
- (2) Payment of the central service assessment and department administrative expenses for fiscal year 2005-2006.

SECTION 5. The sums appropriated in sections 3 and 4 shall be expended by the department of health.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 9, 2006.)