
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 266, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, provided
2 funding to the department of health to establish a training
3 stipend program for emergency medical technicians who do not
4 have access to a training stipend program and who want to
5 advance in their chosen profession by enrolling in a
6 state-qualified mobile intensive care technician training
7 program. The legislature finds that there still a need for more
8 mobile intensive care technicians or paramedics in Hawaii. The
9 Emergency Medical Services Strategic Planning for the Future
10 conference in 2003 estimated that two hundred fifty mobile
11 intensive care technicians will be needed within the next five
12 years to fully staff the system. This estimate includes current
13 shortages, attrition, and anticipated system growth (e.g., the
14 federal firefighting agency had six mobile intensive care
15 technicians and anticipated needing twenty-nine before the end
16 of 2007).

17 The lack of local training has made the shortage even more
18 critical, especially on the neighbor islands. Emergency medical



1 technicians leave the industry because they are unable to
2 advance without financial assistance. Others take
3 correspondence classes in nursing or other related health care
4 fields. For example, currently there are emergency medical
5 technicians on the neighbor islands who wish to enter the next
6 mobile intensive care technician training program being offered.
7 To complete this program and be certified, these students must
8 attend and successfully complete both the didactic and practical
9 training clinics. However, the mandatory practical training is
10 offered only on Oahu. Traveling to Oahu is an enormous expense
11 for these students who must take time off from work and away
12 from their families to attend the training. Without financial
13 assistance of some type, it is unlikely that many of them will
14 be able to attend.

15 The prime recruiting target for the federal firefighting
16 agency is the city and county of Honolulu mobile intensive care
17 technician workforce, which is already critically short-staffed.
18 All providers look increasingly to paramedics who have trained
19 on the mainland to staff Hawaii's ambulances. These mainland
20 recruits are rarely employed beyond two years in the Hawaii
21 system before returning to the mainland.



1 It is widely recognized that the manner in which moneys
2 distributed for mobile intensive care technician workforce
3 development is not equitable. Unless the State can provide
4 financial stipends to non-civil service employees who train in
5 an accredited program, the crisis will quickly worsen.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
7 department of health to support a training stipend program for
8 emergency medical technicians who do not have access to a
9 training stipend program and who want to advance in their chosen
10 profession by enrolling in a state-qualified mobile intensive
11 care technician training program.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2008-2009 to support the emergency medical technician training
17 stipend program to remedy the shortage of mobile intensive care
18 technicians/paramedics in Hawaii and to assist, through a
19 state-qualified mobile intensive care technician program, ten
20 students per year who are public or private paramedics and who
21 currently do not have access to a training stipend program.



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

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Health; MICT; EMT Stipend Program

Description:

Establishes EMT training stipend program to remedy shortage of MICT paramedics and assist students who are public or private paramedics and cannot access a program. Make an appropriation.. (HB875 HD1)

