THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO.

1282
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1   SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is currently a

2   shortage of at least fifty mobile intensive care technicians or

3   paramedics in Hawaii. In 2003, the emergency medical services

4   strategic planning for the future conference estimated that two

5   hundred fifty mobile intensive care technicians will be needed

6   within the next five years to fully staff the system. This

7   estimate includes current shortages, attrition, and anticipated

8   system growth. For example, the federal firefighting agency had

9   six mobile intensive care technicians and anticipated needing

10   twenty-nine before the end of 2007.

11   The lack of local training has made the shortage even more

12   critical, especially on the neighbor islands. Emergency medical

13   technicians leave the industry because they are unable to

14   advance in their profession without financial assistance.

15   Others take correspondence classes in nursing or other related

16   health care fields. For example, Maui currently has at least

17   ten emergency medical technicians who wish to enter the next

1   mobile intensive care technician training program being offered.

2   To complete this program and be certified, these students must

3   attend and successfully complete both the didactic and practical

4   training clinics. The didactic training is proposed to be held

5   on Maui in 2007 and on Kauai in 2008. However, the mandatory

6   practical training is only offered on Oahu. Traveling to Oahu

7   is an enormous expense for these students who must take time off

8   from work and be apart from their families to attend the

9   training. Without financial assistance of some type, it is

10   unlikely that many of them will be able to attend.

11   The prime recruiting grounds for the federal firefighting

12   .agency is the city and county of Honolulu mobile intensive care

13   technician workforce, which is already critically short-staffed.

14   All providers look increasingly to paramedics who have trained

15   on the mainland to staff Hawaii's ambulances. These mainland

16   recruits are rarely employed beyond two years in the Hawaii

17   system before returning to the mainland.

18   It is widely recognized that the manner in which moneys are

19   distributed for mobile intensive care technician workforce

20   development is not equitable. Unless the State can provide

21   financial stipends to non-civil service employees who train in

22   an accredited program, the crisis will quickly worsen.

1   The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the

2   department of health to establish a training stipend program for

3   emergency medical technicians who do not have access to a

4   training stipend program and who want to advance in their chosen

5   profession by enrolling in a state-qualified mobile intensive

6   care technician training program.

7   SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general

8   revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $, or so much

9   thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to

10   establish the emergency medical technician training stipend

11   program to remedy the shortage of mobile intensive care

12   technicians and paramedics in Hawaii and to assist, through a

13   state-qualified mobile intensive care technician program, ten

14   students per year who are either public or private paramedics

15   and who currently do not have access to a training stipend

16   program.

17   The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of

18   health for the purposes of this Act.

19   SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

Report Title:
Health; Mobile Intensive Care Technician; Emergency Medical
Services; Stipend Program

Description:
Appropriates moneys to establish an emergency medical services
training stipend program to remedy the shortage of mobile
intensive care technician paramedics and assist ten paramedic
students per year who do not have access to a program. (SB1282
HD1)