
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 168,000 Hawaii
2 residents suffer from chronic kidney disease. Due to the
3 demographics and diet of Hawaii's population, one in seven
4 persons in Hawaii suffers from chronic kidney disease, compared
5 to the national average of one in nine persons. About four
6 thousand Hawaii patients with chronic kidney disease require
7 dialysis three times per week due to kidney failure. This
8 lifesaving treatment filters waste, excess fluids, and toxins
9 from the blood. Every year, seven hundred more individuals in
10 Hawaii require dialysis treatment than in the previous year.

11 The legislature further finds that the state's two dialysis
12 operators, Liberty Dialysis and U.S. Renal Care, have opened and
13 plan to open additional dialysis centers to address the
14 increased demand for dialysis services. However, the new
15 dialysis centers cannot be reimbursed for treating medicare and
16 medicaid patients, who make up eighty-five per cent of Hawaii's
17 dialysis population, without certification from the department



1 of health. The certification process currently takes nearly
2 three years to complete due, in part, to a shortage of funds and
3 the lack of department personnel. This has created an
4 artificial shortage in the number of available dialysis centers.
5 In response to the increased demand for dialysis, many certified
6 dialysis centers are operating beyond their capacity by
7 scheduling patients after normal hours. In some cases, patients
8 must drive over twenty miles to be treated at a dialysis center
9 because such a distant center is the only one with available
10 appointments.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to assist
12 the department of health in reviewing, certifying, and
13 recertifying dialysis centers in Hawaii and other health care
14 facilities under the purview of the department of health.

15 SECTION 2. The department of health shall establish two
16 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent surveyor positions and
17 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent supervisor position
18 to review, certify, and recertify dialysis centers and other
19 health care facilities under the purview of the department of
20 health.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to assist
4 in the review, certification, and recertification of dialysis
5 centers and other health care facilities under the purview of
6 the department of health, including the hiring of necessary
7 staff.

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

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii, from moneys in the treasury
12 received from federal funds, the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to assist
14 in the review, certification, and recertification of dialysis
15 centers and other health care facilities under the purview of
16 the department of health, including the hiring of necessary
17 staff.

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

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2035.



Report Title:

Dialysis Centers; Certification; Health Care Facilities;
Department of Health; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes positions and appropriates funds to assist in the review, certification, and recertification of dialysis centers and other health care facilities under the purview of DOH. Effective 7/1/2035. (SD1)

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