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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

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

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

14           The legislature further finds that the State's two dialysis  
15 operators, Liberty Dialysis and U.S. Renal Care, have opened and  
16 plan to open additional dialysis centers to address the  
17 increased demand for dialysis services. However, the new



1 dialysis centers cannot be reimbursed for treating medicare and  
2 medicaid patients, who make up eighty-five per cent of Hawaii's  
3 dialysis population, without certification from the department  
4 of health. The certification process currently takes nearly  
5 three years to complete due, in part, to a shortage of funds and  
6 the lack of department personnel. This has created an  
7 artificial shortage in the number of available dialysis centers.  
8 In response to the increased demand for dialysis, many certified  
9 dialysis centers are operating beyond their capacity by  
10 scheduling patients after normal hours. In some cases, patients  
11 must drive over twenty miles to be treated at a dialysis center  
12 because such a distant center is the only one with available  
13 appointments.

14 The purpose of this Act is to increase the number of  
15 certified dialysis centers in Hawaii by making an emergency  
16 appropriation for the department of health to contract for  
17 assistance in the review, certification, and recertification of  
18 dialysis centers.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 to



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Tamara

L.A.D.

[Signature]

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Bird Kobayashi

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JAN 23 2018

# H.B. NO. 2533

**Report Title:**

Dialysis Centers; Certification; Department of Health; Emergency Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an emergency appropriation to DOH to contract for services to review, certify, and recertify dialysis centers.  
Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

