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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a high percentage of  
2 calls for emergency medical services are from repeat callers who  
3 call multiple times per day for issues that do not require an  
4 emergency response. Additionally, most 911 calls originate from  
5 residences and are often for medical concerns that could be  
6 addressed by a functioning community paramedic system. As the  
7 call volume rises each year and the number of ambulance stations  
8 remains the same, it is critical to establish community  
9 paramedic services to provide appropriate services to non-  
10 emergency callers who would otherwise be using valuable  
11 emergency medical services needed by other individuals.

12           Focused on identifying solutions, the department of health  
13 emergency medical services and injury prevention system branch  
14 convened a working group and compiled a report prior to the 2017  
15 legislative session in response to House Concurrent Resolution  
16 No. 90, Regular Session of 2016. The working group, in its  
17 December 2016 report to the legislature, recommended that a



1 community paramedic pilot program be established at two to three  
2 of the six metropolitan and rural sites it identified. The  
3 working group found that community paramedicine could reduce the  
4 high volume of 911 calls for non-emergency medical conditions.  
5 It also found that community paramedicine could improve health  
6 in the State by addressing the following: callers needing  
7 alternate destinations other than emergency departments; post-  
8 hospital discharge care; the homeless population; hospice care;  
9 behavioral health; and acute and chronic medical conditions such  
10 as infectious diseases, diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

11 The purpose of this Act is to implement the recommendations  
12 of the working group convened pursuant to House Concurrent  
13 Resolution No. 90, Regular Session of 2016, by establishing and  
14 appropriating funds for a three-year community paramedic  
15 services pilot program and requiring an evaluation of the pilot  
16 program's effectiveness.

17 SECTION 2. There is established a three-year community  
18 paramedic services pilot program, to be administered by the  
19 department of health. The pilot program shall commence on  
20 January 1, 2019, and shall terminate on December 31, 2021. The  
21 program shall be conducted at two pilot sites approved by the



1 director of health, with at least one site on a neighbor island.

2 The program shall include the following components:

3 (1) Training and certification. Kapiolani community  
4 college shall:

5 (A) Develop a community paramedic curriculum in  
6 consultation with the department of health;

7 (B) Institute a community paramedic training program;  
8 and

9 (C) In partnership with the University of Hawaii  
10 community colleges, train community health  
11 workers based on common core competencies to work  
12 with community paramedics;

13 (2) Staffing. The department of health shall recruit and  
14 hire a community paramedicine administrator, an  
15 appropriate number of community paramedicine medical  
16 directors for each pilot site, and other personnel as  
17 needed;

18 (3) Equipment and supplies. The department of health  
19 shall procure non-transport vehicles and contract with  
20 emergency medical services providers to provide  
21 necessary supplies and medical equipment;



1 (4) Medical records. Community paramedics providing  
2 services under the pilot program shall initially use  
3 the existing Hawaii emergency medical services medical  
4 record system but shall transition to a more suitable  
5 medical record system when funds become available and  
6 such a system is identified; and

7 (5) Billing. The department of health shall develop a fee  
8 schedule for community paramedic services in  
9 consultation with insurance carriers. Billing and  
10 collections for community paramedic services shall be  
11 conducted by the department of health emergency  
12 medical services and injury prevention system branch.  
13 All moneys collected shall be deposited into the  
14 general fund of the State.

15 SECTION 3. The department of health emergency medical  
16 services and injury prevention system branch shall submit a  
17 report on the status of the implementation of the community  
18 paramedic services pilot program, including any additional  
19 resources and legislation required, to the legislature no later  
20 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
21 of 2019.



1 SECTION 4. The department of health emergency medical  
2 services and injury prevention system branch shall submit a  
3 report on the results of the three-year community paramedic  
4 services pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to  
5 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
6 of the regular sessions of 2020, 2021, and 2022. The report  
7 shall address but not be limited to the following:

- 8 (1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot  
9 program at the selected sites in terms of patient  
10 outcomes, 911 system impact, and costs within eighteen  
11 months of the start of services at the pilot sites;
- 12 (2) A calculation of the program's return on investment  
13 based on:
- 14 (A) The estimated cost savings from any reduction in  
15 usage of emergency ambulance services, emergency  
16 facilities, and associated personnel as a direct  
17 result of the provision of community paramedic  
18 services during the three-year pilot program; and
- 19 (B) The overall impact of the pilot program;



1 (3) Workforce issues, including but not limited to  
2 recruitment, access to training, certification, and  
3 retention efforts; and

4 (4) Sustainability and expansion efforts, including  
5 funding, staffing needs, and fee schedule.

6 SECTION 5. No later than June 30, 2019, the department of  
7 health shall adopt interim rules, which shall be exempt from  
8 chapters 91 and 201M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to effectuate the  
9 purposes of this Act; provided that the interim rules shall  
10 remain in effect until , , or until the department  
11 adopts rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
12 whichever occurs sooner.

13 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to the  
16 department of health for program development, site operation,  
17 administration, and evaluation for the community paramedic  
18 services pilot program established pursuant to this Act.

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



1 SECTION 7. 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  
4 Kapiolani community college for implementation of and training  
5 for the community paramedic services pilot program established  
6 pursuant to this Act.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
8 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
10 provided that sections 6 and 7 shall take effect on July 1,  
11 2050; provided further that this Act shall be repealed on  
12 December 31, 2021.



**Report Title:**

Community Paramedic Services; Pilot Program; Department of Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year community paramedic services pilot program. Establishes reporting requirements. Repeals December 31, 2021. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

