

JAN 22 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AMBULANCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of the
2 island of Hawai'i would greatly benefit from the addition of an
3 advanced life support ambulance to augment the Hawaii county
4 emergency medical services system for residents of the Makalei
5 area. The population of this area has significantly increased
6 over the years, which has corresponded with a steady increase in
7 calls for emergency medical services.

8 The legislature further finds that access to primary health
9 care in Makalei is challenging for the community. For many
10 residents, primary care services are as far as thirty miles
11 away. Coupled with economic and transportation challenges,
12 emergency medical services have become the health care access
13 point for many residents.

14 Due to the lack of resources, it has become common for
15 paramedics to respond to as many as ten calls for emergency
16 medical transportation during a twenty-four hour shift. The
17 potential for fatigue resulting in errors in judgment, driving,



1 and overall safety are of great concern for personnel and
2 residents.

3 The legislature also finds that a new advanced life support
4 ambulance will help reduce death and disability among residents
5 and visitors on the island of Hawai'i. A timely response to a
6 911 call is critical to increasing the likelihood of successful
7 outcomes for injured or sick individuals. Given the island's
8 significant growth and aging population, one new advanced life
9 support ambulance is needed and will be cost-effective.

10 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
11 establish one advanced life support ambulance to be based in the
12 Makalei area on the island of Hawai'i, including the acquisition
13 of a vehicle and equipment and personnel costs for state-
14 certified emergency medical services personnel.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2022-2023 to establish and fund one advanced life support
20 ambulance based in Malakei on the island of Hawaii, including



1 the acquisition of the vehicle and equipment and personnel costs
2 for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

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

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'D', 'K', and 'A' in a stylized, cursive font, positioned above a horizontal line.

S.B. NO. 859

Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulance; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to establish and fund one advanced life support ambulance based in Makalei on the island of Hawai'i, including acquisition of a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs.

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

