

JAN 17 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that investment in public  
2 health infrastructure is critical to reduce the probability of  
3 death and disability in local communities by increasing timely  
4 response and ability to render effective aid to 911 calls --  
5 both of which are of paramount importance to successful outcomes  
6 from life-threatening incidents and sickness.

7           The legislature further finds that ensuring access to  
8 emergency health care statewide is contingent on empowering  
9 aspiring medical health care professionals, including emergency  
10 medical services personnel, to practice in the State.  
11 Currently, under section 453-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
12 emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical  
13 technicians, mobile intensive care technicians, and paramedics  
14 can pursue licensure from the Hawaii medical board after  
15 completing various prerequisites, including position-specific  
16 local programs and certification by the National Registry of



1 Emergency Medical Technicians for the requisite level of  
2 practice.

3 The legislature also finds that in recent years, efforts to  
4 request funding for the establishment of advanced life support  
5 ambulances have stalled due to a lack of qualified personnel to  
6 consistently staff the vehicles. Existing law requires a  
7 minimum of one mobile intensive care technician and one  
8 emergency medical technician for advanced life support, as well  
9 as two emergency medical technicians for basic life support,  
10 except hospital-based ambulance service, which requires one  
11 emergency medical technician and one registered nurse licensed  
12 in the State.

13 The legislature further finds that there are only three  
14 institutions that currently provide programs that offer the  
15 requisite training for emergency medical service licensure in  
16 the State, including Kapiolani community college; university of  
17 Hawai'i, Maui college campus; and Hawai'i community college.  
18 With programs not offered in every county, many prospective  
19 emergency services personnel are required to relocate to pursue  
20 licensure. This barrier has created a disparate impact on



1 rural, underserved communities in these counties, where public  
2 health services represent a significant source of health care.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
4 department of health to establish and implement a program to  
5 improve access to critical care by increasing support for  
6 emergency medical services personnel in the State.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall establish  
8 and implement a program to improve and increase support for  
9 emergency medical services by:

- 10 (1) Expanding access to curriculum and training approved  
11 by the department of health for emergency medical  
12 services personnel in each county of the State,  
13 including remote or virtual classes;
- 14 (2) Providing a pathway for high school students who want  
15 to pursue a career in emergency medical services;
- 16 (3) Promoting the recruitment, hiring, and retention of  
17 trained emergency medical services personnel in each  
18 county of the State;
- 19 (4) Providing reimbursement for fees and costs associated  
20 with training courses required for licensure to



1 individuals who successfully obtain a license pursuant  
2 to section 453-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

3 (5) Providing new equipment, medication, and vehicles to  
4 the county emergency medical services systems  
5 established pursuant to section 46-192, Hawaii Revised  
6 Statutes.

7 (b) The department of health shall submit a report of its  
8 findings and recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the  
9 program, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature  
10 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
11 sessions of 2025 and 2026.

12 (c) The program shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026.

13 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
14 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
15 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
16 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
17 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
18 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by

19 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes  
20 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
21 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act



1 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
2 ceiling are that:

3 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
4 serve the public interest; and

5 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
6 addressed by this Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
10 the department of health to establish a program to improve and  
11 increase support for emergency medical services in the State  
12 pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

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

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Keen", is written over a horizontal line.

# S.B. NO. 2048

**Report Title:**

DOH; Emergency Medical Services; Program; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to establish and implement a program to improve and increase support for emergency medical services in the State. Requires the Department of Health to submit reports to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation.

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

