

JAN 17 2025

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 Hawai'i 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 2026 and 2027.

12 (c) The program shall cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2026-2027 for the department of health to establish a
18 program to improve and increase support for emergency medical
19 services in the State pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 866

Report Title:

DOH; Emergency Medical Services; Program; Reports;
Appropriations

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. 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.

