
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's existing
2 emergency medical services statutes were designed for an earlier
3 era and do not reflect the complexities of modern
4 time-sensitive, emergency medical systems of care. Recent
5 emergency events across the State have exposed significant gaps
6 in coordination, integration, and resource deployment across
7 emergency medical services, acute care facilities, and the
8 trauma system. These events underscored the vulnerability of
9 the State's geographically isolated rural communities and
10 highlighted the urgent need for modernization.

11 The legislature further finds that contemporary models of
12 emergency and acute care prioritize integrated systems that
13 address time-sensitive emergencies such as trauma, heart
14 attacks, strokes, sepsis, and burns with the same urgency and
15 structure as traditional emergency response. By adopting a
16 time-sensitive emergency medical systems of care model, the
17 State can improve patient survival, reduce long-term disability,



1 and strengthen statewide resilience in times of disaster or
2 public health crisis.

3 The legislature also finds that aligning the State's
4 emergency medical services statutes with national best practices
5 in systems integration will:

- 6 (1) Ensure coordinated, evidence-based care for
7 time-sensitive emergencies across all islands;
- 8 (2) Modernize emergency medical services and trauma
9 systems to meet current and future challenges;
- 10 (3) Improve patient outcomes through standardized,
11 statewide protocols; and
- 12 (4) Enhance preparedness for future natural disasters,
13 mass casualty incidents, and public health threats.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to update the
15 State's emergency medical services statutes to establish a
16 comprehensive, time-sensitive, emergency medical systems of care
17 model that strengthens the State's capacity to respond
18 effectively to emergencies and safeguard the health of residents
19 living on all islands.

20 SECTION 2. Section 321-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 "**§321-221 Findings and purpose.** The legislature finds
2 that the establishment of [a] state emergency medical [~~services~~
3 ~~system,~~] systems of care, including emergency medical services,
4 emergency medical services for children, and trauma and critical
5 care services, is a matter of compelling state interest and is
6 necessary to protect and preserve public health. A system
7 designed to reduce medical emergency deaths, injuries, and
8 permanent long-term disability through the implementation of a
9 fully integrated, cohesive network of components, the
10 legislature further finds, will best serve public health needs.
11 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to establish and
12 maintain [a] state emergency medical [~~services system~~] systems
13 of care in communities that can be most effectively served by
14 the State, and to fix the responsibility for the administration
15 of [this] state [~~system,~~] emergency medical systems of care,
16 which shall provide for the arrangement of personnel,
17 facilities, and equipment for the effective and coordinated
18 delivery of health care services under emergency conditions,
19 whether occurring as the result of a patient's condition, from
20 natural disasters, or from other causes. The [~~system~~] emergency
21 medical systems of care shall provide for personnel, personnel



1 training, communications, emergency transportation, facilities,
2 coordination with emergency medical and critical care services,
3 coordination and use of available public safety agencies,
4 promotion of consumer participation, accessibility to care,
5 mandatory standard medical recordkeeping, consumer information
6 and education, independent review and evaluation, disaster
7 linkage, mutual aid agreements, and other components necessary
8 to meet the purposes of this part."

9 SECTION 3. Section 321-222, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "**§321-222 Definitions.** As used in this part [~~unless the~~
12 ~~context clearly requires otherwise~~]:

13 "Advanced emergency medical technician" means a health
14 professional certified by the National Registry of Emergency
15 Medical Technicians and licensed by the State as an advanced
16 emergency medical technician to provide basic and limited
17 advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical
18 and emergency patients to access the emergency medical systems
19 of care.

20 "Advanced life support" means initiating all basic life
21 support care as well as invasive patient care designed to



1 stabilize and support a patient's condition due to sudden
2 illness or injury. The care rendered, excluding basic life
3 support, constitutes the practice of medicine.

4 "Advisory [~~committee~~] council" means the Hawaii emergency
5 medical [~~services~~] systems of care advisory [~~committee~~.]
6 council.

7 "Air-medical services" means medical care and transport of
8 patients by aircraft, provided by a licensed air ambulance
9 operator with qualified medical personnel, and regulated as part
10 of the statewide emergency medical systems of care.

11 "Basic life support" means initiating noninvasive emergency
12 patient care designed to optimize the patient's chances of
13 surviving the emergency situation. The care rendered consists
14 of all first aid procedures needed, but does not include
15 invasive procedures [~~which~~] that constitute the practice of
16 medicine; provided that state-approved basic life support
17 personnel may use fully automatic external defibrillators,
18 initiate intravenous lines, place tourniquets, and perform
19 manual external defibrillation under the direction and personal
20 supervision of a [~~mobile intensive care technician~~]



1 state-licensed clinician and in accordance with rules adopted by
2 the department.

3 "Department" means the department of health.

4 "Emergency [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical services" means a
5 [~~secondary~~] response system that provides immediate critical
6 care and transport [~~by rotary-wing aircraft~~] of a patient by
7 aircraft to a facility that provides specialized medical care.

8 "Emergency medical responder" means a person certified by
9 the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

10 "Emergency medical services for children" means emergency
11 medical services, including preventive, pre-hospital, hospital,
12 rehabilitative, and other post-hospital care for children.

13 "Emergency medical services personnel" means any [~~mobile~~
14 ~~intensive care technician or~~] paramedic, advanced emergency
15 medical technician, emergency medical technician, emergency
16 medical responder, or other health care worker who is certified
17 or licensed by the State.

18 "Emergency medical systems of care" means a fully
19 integrated and cohesive statewide network of components that
20 provide timely and effective care to individuals experiencing
21 crisis situations. Components of an emergency medical systems



1 of care include but are not limited to community-based services,
2 pre-hospital care, emergency response, facility-based care,
3 disaster response, and other post-hospital services that support
4 stabilization, treatment, and transport.

5 "Emergency medical technician" means a person certified by
6 the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and
7 licensed by the State whose primary focus is to provide
8 immediate lifesaving care to patients while ensuring access to
9 the emergency medical systems of care.

10 "First responder personnel" means a person who [~~has~~
11 ~~successfully completed a United States Department of~~
12 ~~Transportation approved First Responder Course of training in~~
13 ~~emergency basic life support.~~] provides initial assistance until
14 emergency medical services personnel arrive.

15 "Medicom" means the emergency medical systems of care
16 medical communications that monitor statewide resource
17 availability, emergency dispatch, hospital notifications,
18 interfacility transfers, and disaster communications.

19 "Medicom center" means the centralized coordination place
20 for medicom functions.



1 "Paramedic" means a mobile intensive care technician who is
2 an allied health professional certified by the National Registry
3 of Emergency Medical Technicians whose primary focus is to
4 provide advanced emergency medical care for critical and
5 emergent patients who access the emergency medical systems of
6 care.

7 "Service area" means the State, excluding any county having
8 a population of five hundred thousand or more.

9 "State system" means the state [~~pre-hospital~~] emergency
10 medical [~~services system.~~] systems of care.

11 "Statewide" means all counties in the State."

12 SECTION 4. Section 321-223, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§321-223 State emergency medical [~~services system,~~**
15 **systems of care, establishment.** The department shall establish,
16 administer, and maintain the state emergency medical [~~services~~
17 ~~system~~] systems of care to serve the emergency health needs of
18 the people in the service area. All emergency medical services
19 or ambulance services contracted by or under the authority of
20 the department or any county within the service area shall be
21 consistent with this part."



1 SECTION 5. Section 321-224, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) In addition to other functions and duties assigned
4 under this part, the department shall:

5 (1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services statewide;

6 (2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the
7 service area, including emergency [~~aeromedical~~
8 air-medical services, which shall meet the
9 requirements of this part, subject to section 321-228;

10 (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of
11 training courses offered to emergency medical services
12 personnel statewide who provide basic, intermediate,
13 and advanced life support, consult and coordinate with
14 the University of Hawaii, or any other accredited
15 community college, college, or university, or any
16 professional organization that provides emergency
17 medical services training, regarding the training for
18 basic, intermediate, and advanced life support
19 personnel, as provided in section 321-229;



- 1 (4) Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation
2 of the statewide emergency medical [~~services system,~~
3 systems of care, subject to section 321-230;
- 4 (5) Coordinate, on a statewide basis, emergency medical
5 resources and the allocation of emergency services and
6 facilities in the event of mass casualties, natural
7 disasters, national emergencies, and other
8 emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and
9 national disaster plans, and participation in
10 exercises to test these plans;
- 11 (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a statewide
12 communication system [~~for the service area,~~] including
13 interoperability with organizations essential to core
14 operations of the State's emergency medical systems of
15 care;
- 16 (7) [~~Assist each county in the service area in the]~~
17 Oversee the development and implementation of a
18 statewide "911" emergency [telephone] dispatch system;
- 19 (8) Secure technical assistance and other assistance and
20 consultation necessary for the implementation of this
21 part, subject to section 321-230;



- 1 (9) Implement public information and education programs to
2 inform the public of the statewide system and its use,
3 and disseminate other emergency medical information,
4 including appropriate methods of medical self-help and
5 first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training
6 programs statewide;
- 7 (10) Establish standards and provide training for
8 dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a
9 program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment
10 and operations; provided that individuals acting as
11 dispatchers in the State as of July 1, 2022, shall
12 obtain emergency medical dispatch certification by
13 July 1, 2026, and shall maintain certification
14 thereafter;
- 15 (11) Establish a program that will enable emergency service
16 personnel statewide to provide early defibrillation;
- 17 (12) Establish [~~within the department the~~] and maintain
18 emergency medical [~~service system~~] services for
19 children statewide;



1 (13) Consult with the advisory [~~committee~~] council on
2 matters relating to the implementation of this part;
3 and

4 (14) Establish and maintain statewide standards for
5 emergency medical services course instructor
6 qualifications and statewide requirements for
7 emergency medical services training facilities."

8 SECTION 6. Section 321-225, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§321-225** **The [state] Hawaii emergency medical [~~services~~]**
11 **systems of care advisory [~~committee~~] council.** (a) There is
12 established within the department of health for administrative
13 purposes only the [state] Hawaii emergency medical [~~services~~]
14 systems of care advisory [~~committee~~] council, which shall sit
15 in an advisory capacity to the department of health on all
16 matters relating to the state system. The advisory [~~committee~~]
17 council may advise the department of health upon request of the
18 department or upon its own initiative with regard to the state
19 system. The advisory [~~committee~~] council shall:

20 (1) Monitor, review, and evaluate on an ongoing basis the
21 operations, administration, and efficacy of the state



- 1 system or any components thereof, to determine
2 conformity with and maximum implementation of this
3 part[-];
- 4 (2) Prepare and submit periodic assessments, reports, and
5 other documents relating to the state system to ensure
6 the implementation of this part, as deemed necessary
7 or desirable in the discretion of the advisory
8 ~~[committee-]~~ council;
- 9 (3) Seek the input of the public in relation to the state
10 system to ensure adequate fulfillment of the emergency
11 medical services, emergency medical services for
12 children, and trauma and critical care services needs
13 of the State consistent with this part[-];
- 14 (4) Participate in any planning or other policymaking with
15 regard to the state system, and seek the participation
16 of the public, including subarea health planning
17 councils in its consideration of plans and policies
18 relating to the state system[-];
- 19 (5) Perform other functions, and have other duties
20 necessary to ensuring the fullest implementation and
21 maintenance of the state system[-]; and



1 (6) Advise the department of health in formulating a
2 master plan for emergency medical [~~services,~~] systems
3 of care, including medicom, the "911" system, and
4 other components necessary to meet the emergency
5 medical needs of the people of the State, which shall
6 be submitted to the legislature.

7 (b) The advisory [~~committee~~] council shall be composed of
8 [~~twenty~~] twenty-three members: [~~three~~] four nonvoting ex-officio
9 members, who shall be the director of transportation, the
10 [~~adjutant general,~~] administrator of the Hawaii emergency
11 management agency, the executive director of the Hawaii 911
12 board, and the administrator of the state health planning and
13 development agency, or the designated representatives thereof,
14 and [~~seventeen~~] nineteen members representing all counties of
15 the State who shall be appointed by the governor subject to
16 section 26-34 as follows:

17 (1) Five members who shall be physicians experienced in
18 the conduct and delivery of emergency medical
19 services; provided that at least two shall be engaged
20 in the practice of emergency medicine and be
21 board-eligible or board-certified by the American



- 1 Board of Emergency Medicine [~~and~~]; provided further
2 that at least one physician shall be engaged in the
3 practice of pediatrics and be board-eligible or
4 board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics;
- 5 (2) Four members who shall be consumers of health care and
6 who shall have no connection with or relationship to
7 the health care system of the State and who shall be
8 representative of all counties;
- 9 (3) Four members of allied health professions related to
10 emergency medical services; [~~and~~]
- 11 (4) Four members, one from each county, who shall be
12 mobile intensive care technicians or emergency medical
13 technicians engaged in the practice of pre-hospital
14 emergency medical [~~service.~~] services; and
- 15 (5) Two members who shall be surgeons or clinicians
16 experienced in the conduct and delivery of trauma or
17 acute care services.
- 18 (c) The members of the advisory [~~committee~~] council shall
19 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for
20 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties,
21 including travel expenses. The chairperson of the advisory



1 ~~[committee]~~ council shall be elected by the members from among
2 their numbers. A majority of the members of the advisory
3 ~~[committee]~~ council shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of
4 business of the advisory ~~[committee.]~~ council. A majority vote
5 of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is
6 established shall be necessary to validate any action of the
7 ~~[committee.]~~ council.

8 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) The advisory ~~[committee]~~ council may adopt rules
9 for its governance.

10 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The department of health shall provide necessary
11 staff and other support required by the advisory ~~[committee]~~
12 council for the performance of its duties."

13 SECTION 7. Section 321-228, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§321-228 Emergency medical services; counties.** The
16 department shall determine, in consultation with the advisory
17 ~~[committee]~~ council under section 321-225, the levels of
18 emergency medical services that shall be implemented in each
19 county within the state service area. The department may
20 contract to provide emergency medical services, including
21 emergency ~~[aeromedical]~~ air-medical services, or any necessary



1 component of the emergency [~~services system of~~] medical systems
2 of care within a county within the service area in conformance
3 with the state system. If any county within the service area
4 shall apply to the department to operate state emergency medical
5 ambulance services within the respective county, the department
6 may contract with the county for the provision of those
7 services. The department shall operate emergency medical
8 ambulance services or contract with a private agency in those
9 counties within the service area that do not apply to it under
10 this section. Any county or private agency contracting to
11 provide emergency medical ambulance services under this section
12 shall be required by the department to implement those services
13 in a manner and at a level consistent with the levels determined
14 under this section."

15 SECTION 8. Section 321-230, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**§321-230 Technical assistance, data collection,**
18 **evaluation.** (a) The department may contract for technical
19 assistance and consultation, including categorization, data
20 collection, and evaluation appropriate to the needs of the
21 statewide emergency medical [~~services system.~~] systems of care.



1 The collection and analysis of statewide emergency medical
2 [~~services~~] systems of care data, including pediatrics, trauma,
3 cardiac, stroke, burn, medical, and behavioral medical
4 emergencies, shall be for the purpose of improving the quality
5 of services provided.

6 The department may implement and maintain a trauma registry
7 for the collection of information concerning the treatment of
8 critical trauma patients at state designated trauma centers, and
9 carry out a system for the management of that information. The
10 system may provide for the recording of information concerning
11 treatment received before and after a trauma patient's admission
12 to a hospital or medical center. All state designated trauma
13 centers shall submit to the department periodic reports of each
14 patient treated for trauma in the state system in the manner as
15 the department shall specify.

16 For the purposes of this subsection, "categorization" means
17 systematic identification of the readiness and capabilities of
18 hospitals and their staffs to adequately, expeditiously, and
19 efficiently receive and treat emergency patients.

20 (b) The department shall establish, administer, and
21 maintain an [~~aeromedical~~] emergency [~~medical~~] air-medical



1 services system designed to collect and analyze data to measure
2 the efficiency and effectiveness of each phase of the statewide
3 emergency [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical program.

4 The department shall monitor [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical
5 emergency ambulance service flights statewide to include date of
6 service, patient demographics, transport diagnosis, and medical
7 outcomes. The department medicom center shall work with each
8 air-medical service provider and health care facility as the
9 intermediary to arrange emergency transport of [~~bariatric~~]
10 patients by licensed air-medical service providers, or by the
11 United States Coast Guard, and maintain a registry of all
12 emergency transports provided [~~by the United States Coast~~
13 ~~Guard~~]. All statewide [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical providers shall
14 submit their data to the department as specified and requested
15 by the department.

16 The statewide [~~aeromedical~~] emergency [~~medical~~] air-medical
17 services system shall serve the emergency health needs of the
18 people of the State by identifying:

- 19 (1) The system's strengths and weaknesses;
20 (2) The allocation of resources; and



1 (3) The development of [~~rotary-wing~~] emergency
2 [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical services standards;
3 provided that emergency helicopter use, including triage
4 protocols, shall be based on national [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical
5 triage and transport guidelines established by the Association
6 of Air Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons, the
7 National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians, or
8 other department-approved national [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical
9 accreditation agency. The department, in the implementation of
10 this subsection, shall plan, coordinate, and provide assistance
11 to all entities and agencies, public and private, involved in
12 the statewide system.

13 (c) The department shall use an emergency [~~aeromedical~~
14 ~~services~~] air-medical quality improvement committee comprised of
15 representatives of trauma, emergency, and tertiary care
16 physicians and providers to analyze information collected from
17 the [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical quality improvement performance
18 measures as established by the [~~American College of Surgeons,~~
19 department, and to recommend system standards and resources to
20 maintain and improve [~~the Hawaii~~] emergency [~~aeromedical~~]
21 air-medical services [~~system~~]."



1 SECTION 9. Section 321-231, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[~~§~~]**§321-231**[~~§~~] **Grants.** The state system may seek and
4 accept any funds or property and other desirable support and
5 assistance from any source whatsoever, whether gift, grant,
6 services or any combination thereof, subject to applicable laws.
7 In the event that any grant applications are made in relation to
8 the state system, or any component thereof, the department shall
9 consult with the advisory [~~committee~~] council and provide
10 technical assistance in the preparation, management, or
11 administration of the application or the grant, or both."

12 SECTION 10. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 3134
S.D. 2

Report Title:

Department of Health; Emergency Medical Services Systems of Care

Description:

Modernizes the State's emergency medical services statutes to align with current best practices. (SD2)

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