
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 current
2 emergency medical services laws were designed for an earlier era
3 and do not reflect the complexities of modern time-sensitive
4 emergency medical systems of care. Recent emergency events
5 across the State have exposed significant gaps in coordination,
6 integration, and resource deployment across emergency medical
7 services, acute care facilities, and the trauma system. These
8 events underscored the vulnerability of Hawaii's geographically
9 isolated rural communities and highlighted the urgent need for
10 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 burns, heart
14 attacks, strokes, sepsis, and trauma, with the same urgency and
15 structure as traditional emergency response. By adopting a
16 time-sensitive emergency medical systems of care model, Hawaii
17 can improve patient survival, reduce long-term disability, and



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

3 Aligning Hawaii's emergency medical services laws with
4 national best practices in systems integration will:

5 (1) Ensure coordinated, evidence-based care for time-
6 sensitive emergencies across all islands;

7 (2) Modernize emergency medical services and trauma
8 systems to meet current and future challenges;

9 (3) Improve patient outcomes through standardized,
10 statewide protocols; and

11 (4) Enhance preparedness for future natural disasters,
12 mass casualty incidents, and public health threats.

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

19 SECTION 2. Section 46-191, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending the definition of "basic life support" to
21 read as follows:



1 ""Basic life support" means initiating noninvasive
2 emergency patient care designed to optimize the patient's
3 chances of surviving the emergency situation. The care rendered
4 consists of all first aid procedures needed, but does not
5 include invasive procedures that constitute the practice of
6 medicine; provided that state-approved basic life support
7 personnel may use fully automatic external defibrillators,
8 initiate intravenous lines, place tourniquets, and perform
9 manual external defibrillation under the direction and personal
10 supervision of a [~~mobile intensive care technician.~~] state-
11 licensed clinician and in accordance with rules adopted by the
12 department of health."

13 SECTION 3. Section 46-196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "~~§46-196~~ **Emergency medical services; levels of**
16 **service; contracts.** The county shall determine the levels of
17 emergency medical services that shall be implemented throughout
18 the county~~+~~, unless otherwise determined by the department of
19 health in consultation with the Hawaii emergency medical systems
20 of care advisory council; provided that the county shall provide
21 no fewer than twenty-one ground ambulance units. The county may



1 contract to provide emergency medical services, including
2 emergency aeromedical services, or any necessary component of
3 the county system."

4 SECTION 4. Section 321-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "**§321-221 Findings and purpose.** The legislature finds
7 that the establishment of [a] state emergency medical [~~services~~
8 ~~system,~~] systems of care, including emergency medical services,
9 emergency medical services for children, and trauma and critical
10 care services, is a matter of compelling state interest and
11 necessary to protect and preserve public health. [~~A system~~] The
12 legislature further finds that state emergency medical systems
13 of care designed to reduce medical emergency deaths, injuries,
14 and permanent long-term disability through the implementation of
15 a fully integrated, cohesive network of components[~~, the~~
16 ~~legislature further finds,~~] will best serve public health needs.
17 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to establish and
18 maintain [a] state emergency medical [~~services system~~] systems
19 of care in communities that can be most effectively served by
20 the State[~~,~~] and [~~to~~] fix the responsibility for the
21 administration of [~~this~~] state [~~system,~~] emergency medical



1 systems of care, which shall provide for the arrangement of
2 personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective and
3 coordinated delivery of health care services under emergency
4 conditions, whether occurring as the result of a patient's
5 condition, from natural disasters, or from other causes. The
6 ~~[system]~~ emergency medical systems of care shall provide for
7 personnel, personnel training, communications, emergency
8 transportation, facilities, coordination with emergency medical
9 and critical care services, coordination and use of available
10 public safety agencies, promotion of consumer participation,
11 accessibility to care, mandatory standard medical recordkeeping,
12 consumer information and education, independent review and
13 evaluation, disaster linkage, mutual aid agreements, and other
14 components necessary to meet the purposes of this part."

15 SECTION 5. Section 321-222, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**§321-222 Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the
18 context clearly requires otherwise:

19 "Advanced emergency medical technician" means a health care
20 professional who holds a current certificate from the National
21 Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and is licensed



1 pursuant to section 453-34 as an advanced emergency medical
2 technician to provide basic and limited advanced emergency
3 medical care and transportation for critical and emergency
4 patients to access the emergency medical systems of care.

5 "Advanced life support" means initiating all basic life
6 support care as well as invasive patient care designed to
7 stabilize and support a patient's condition due to sudden
8 illness or injury. The care rendered, excluding basic life
9 support, constitutes the practice of medicine.

10 "Advisory [~~committee~~] council" means the Hawaii emergency
11 medical [~~services~~] systems of care advisory [~~committee.~~]
12 council.

13 "Air-medical services" means medical care and transport of
14 patients by aircraft provided by a licensed air ambulance
15 operator with qualified medical personnel and regulated as part
16 of the state emergency medical systems of care.

17 "Basic life support" means initiating noninvasive emergency
18 patient care designed to optimize the patient's chances of
19 surviving the emergency situation. The care rendered consists
20 of all first aid procedures needed, but does not include
21 invasive procedures [~~which~~] that constitute the practice of



1 medicine; provided that state-approved basic life support
2 personnel may use fully automatic external defibrillators,
3 initiate intravenous lines, place tourniquets, and perform
4 manual external defibrillation under the direction and personal
5 supervision of a [~~mobile intensive care technician~~] state-
6 licensed clinician and in accordance with rules adopted by the
7 department.

8 "Department" means the department of health.

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

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

15 "Emergency medical services for children" means emergency
16 medical services, including preventive, pre-hospital, hospital,
17 rehabilitative, and other post-hospital care for children.

18 "Emergency medical services personnel" means any [~~mobile~~
19 ~~intensive care technician or emergency medical technician~~]
20 health care professional who is certified or licensed by the
21 State[-] to provide emergency medical services.



1 "Emergency medical systems of care" means a fully
2 integrated and cohesive statewide network of components that
3 provide timely and effective care to individuals experiencing
4 crisis situations. Components of an emergency medical systems
5 of care include but are not limited to community-based services,
6 pre-hospital care, emergency response, facility-based care,
7 disaster response, and other post-hospital services that support
8 stabilization, treatment, and transport.

9 "Emergency medical technician" means a person who holds a
10 certificate from the National Registry of Emergency Medical
11 Technicians, who is licensed pursuant to section 453-34, and
12 whose primary focus is to provide immediate lifesaving care to
13 patients while ensuring access to the emergency medical systems
14 of care.

15 "First responder personnel" means a person who [~~has~~
16 ~~successfully completed a United States Department of~~
17 ~~Transportation approved First Responder Course of training in~~
18 ~~emergency basic life support.~~] provides initial assistance until
19 emergency medical services personnel arrive.

20 "Medicom" means the emergency medical systems of care
21 medical communications that monitor statewide resource



1 availability, emergency dispatch, hospital notifications,
2 interfacility transfers, and disaster communications.

3 "Medicom center" means the centralized coordination place
4 for medicom functions.

5 "Paramedic" means a mobile intensive care technician who is
6 an allied health professional certified by the National Registry
7 of Emergency Medical Technicians, who is licensed pursuant to
8 section 453-34, and whose primary focus is to provide advanced
9 emergency medical care for critical and emergent patients who
10 access the emergency medical systems of care.

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

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

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

16 SECTION 6. Section 321-224, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

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

20 (1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services statewide;



- 1 (2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the
2 service area, including emergency [~~aeromedical~~] air-
3 medical services, which shall meet the requirements of
4 this part, subject to section 321-228;
- 5 (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of
6 training courses offered to emergency medical services
7 personnel statewide who provide basic, intermediate,
8 and advanced life support, consult and coordinate with
9 the [~~University~~] university of Hawaii, or any other
10 accredited community college, college, or university,
11 or any professional organization that provides
12 emergency medical services training, regarding the
13 training for basic, intermediate, and advanced life
14 support personnel, as provided in section 321-229;
- 15 (4) Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation
16 of the statewide emergency medical [~~services system,~~]
17 systems of care, subject to section 321-230;
- 18 (5) Coordinate, on a statewide basis, emergency medical
19 resources and the allocation of emergency services and
20 facilities in the event of mass casualties, natural
21 disasters, national emergencies, and other



- 1 emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and
2 national disaster plans, and participation in
3 exercises to test these plans;
- 4 (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a communication
5 system [~~for the service area;~~] statewide, including
6 interoperability with organizations essential to core
7 operations of the state system;
- 8 (7) [~~Assist each county in the service area in the]~~
9 Oversee the development and implementation of a
10 statewide "911" emergency [telephone] dispatch system;
- 11 (8) Secure technical assistance and other assistance and
12 consultation necessary for the implementation of this
13 part, subject to section 321-230;
- 14 (9) Implement public information and education programs to
15 inform the public of the statewide system and its use,
16 and disseminate other emergency medical information,
17 including appropriate methods of medical self-help and
18 first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training
19 programs statewide;
- 20 (10) Establish standards and provide training for
21 dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a



1 program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment
2 and operations; provided that individuals acting as
3 dispatchers in the State as of July 1, 2022, shall
4 obtain emergency medical dispatch certification by
5 July 1, 2026, and shall maintain certification
6 thereafter;

7 (11) Establish a program that will enable emergency
8 ~~[service]~~ medical services personnel statewide to
9 provide early defibrillation;

10 (12) Establish ~~[within the department the]~~ and maintain
11 emergency medical ~~[service system]~~ services for
12 children statewide;

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

16 (14) Establish and maintain statewide standards for
17 emergency medical services course instructor
18 qualifications and statewide requirements for
19 emergency medical services training facilities."

20 SECTION 7. Section 321-225, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 "§321-225 The [state] Hawaii emergency medical [services]
2 systems of care advisory [committee-] council. (a) There is
3 established within the department [~~of health~~] for administrative
4 purposes only the [state] Hawaii emergency medical [~~services~~]
5 systems of care advisory [committee-] council, which shall sit
6 in an advisory capacity to the department [~~of health~~] on all
7 matters relating to the state system. The advisory [~~committee~~]
8 council may advise the department [~~of health~~] upon request of
9 the department or upon its own initiative with regard to the
10 state system. The advisory [~~committee~~] council shall:

- 11 (1) Monitor, review, and evaluate on an ongoing basis the
12 operations, administration, and efficacy of the state
13 system or any components thereof, to determine
14 conformity with and maximum implementation of this
15 part[-];
- 16 (2) Prepare and submit periodic assessments, reports, and
17 other documents relating to the state system to ensure
18 the implementation of this part, as deemed necessary
19 or desirable in the discretion of the advisory
20 [~~committee-~~] council;



- 1 (3) Seek the input of the public in relation to the state
2 system to ensure adequate fulfillment of the emergency
3 medical services, emergency medical services for
4 children, and trauma and critical care services needs
5 of the State consistent with this part[-];
6 (4) Participate in any planning or other policymaking with
7 regard to the state system, and seek the participation
8 of the public, including subarea health planning
9 councils in its consideration of plans and policies
10 relating to the state system[-];
11 (5) Perform other functions, and have other duties
12 necessary to ensuring the fullest implementation and
13 maintenance of the state system[-]; and
14 (6) Advise the department [~~of health~~] in formulating a
15 master plan for emergency medical [~~services,~~] systems
16 of care, including medicom, the "911" system, and
17 other components necessary to meet the emergency
18 medical needs of the people of the State, which shall
19 be submitted to the legislature.
20 (b) The advisory [~~committee~~] council shall be composed of
21 [~~twenty~~] twenty-three members: [~~three~~] four nonvoting ex-officio



1 members, who shall be the director of transportation, the
2 [~~adjutant general,~~] administrator of emergency management, the
3 executive director of the Hawaii 911 board, and the
4 administrator of the state health planning and development
5 agency, or the designated representatives thereof, and
6 [~~seventeen~~] nineteen members representing all counties of the
7 State who shall be appointed by the governor subject to section
8 26-34 as follows:

- 9 (1) Five members who shall be physicians experienced in
10 the conduct and delivery of emergency medical
11 services; provided that at least two shall be engaged
12 in the practice of emergency medicine and be board-
13 eligible or board-certified by the American Board of
14 Emergency Medicine[~~, and~~]; provided further that at
15 least one physician shall be engaged in the practice
16 of pediatrics and be board-eligible or board-certified
17 by the American Board of Pediatrics;
- 18 (2) Four members who shall be consumers of health care and
19 who shall have no connection with or relationship to
20 the health care system of the State and who shall be
21 representative of all counties;



- 1 (3) Four members of allied health professions related to
2 emergency medical services; ~~and~~
- 3 (4) Four members, one from each county, who shall be
4 mobile intensive care technicians or emergency medical
5 technicians engaged in the practice of pre-hospital
6 emergency medical ~~[service.]~~ services; and
- 7 (5) Two members who shall be surgeons or clinicians
8 experienced in the conduct and delivery of trauma or
9 acute care services.
- 10 (c) The members of the advisory [~~committee~~] council shall
11 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for
12 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties,
13 including travel expenses. The chairperson of the advisory
14 [~~committee~~] council shall be elected by the members from among
15 their numbers. A majority of the members of the advisory
16 [~~committee~~] council shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of
17 business of the advisory [~~committee.~~] council. A majority vote
18 of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is
19 established shall be necessary to validate any action of the
20 [~~committee.~~] council.



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

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

6 SECTION 8. Section 321-228, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§321-228 Emergency medical services; counties.** The
9 department shall determine, in consultation with the advisory
10 [~~committee~~] council under section 321-225, the levels of
11 emergency medical services that shall be implemented in each
12 county within the service area. The department may contract to
13 provide emergency medical services, including emergency
14 [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical services, or any necessary component
15 of the emergency [~~services system of~~] medical systems of care
16 within a county within the service area in conformance with the
17 state system. If any county within the service area [~~shall~~
18 ~~apply~~] applies to the department to operate state emergency
19 medical ambulance services within the respective county, the
20 department may contract with the county for the provision of
21 those services. The department shall operate emergency medical



1 ambulance services or contract with a private agency in those
2 counties within the service area that do not apply to it under
3 this section. Any county or private agency contracting to
4 provide emergency medical ambulance services under this section
5 shall be required by the department to implement those services
6 in a manner and at a level consistent with the levels determined
7 under this section."

8 SECTION 9. Section 321-230, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§321-230 Technical assistance**~~[7]~~**;** **data collection**~~[7]~~**;**
11 **evaluation.** (a) The department may contract for technical
12 assistance and consultation, including categorization, data
13 collection, and evaluation appropriate to the needs of the
14 statewide emergency medical ~~[services system.]~~ systems of care.
15 The collection and analysis of statewide emergency medical
16 ~~[services]~~ systems of care data, including ~~[pediatrics, trauma,]~~
17 behavioral medical, burn, cardiac, medical, pediatrics, stroke,
18 and ~~[behavioral medical]~~ trauma emergencies, shall be for the
19 purpose of improving the quality of services provided.

20 The department may implement and maintain a trauma registry
21 for the collection of information concerning the treatment of



1 critical trauma patients at state designated trauma centers, and
2 carry out a system for the management of that information. The
3 system may provide for the recording of information concerning
4 treatment received before and after a trauma patient's admission
5 to a hospital or medical center. All state designated trauma
6 centers shall submit to the department periodic reports of each
7 patient treated for trauma in the state system in the manner as
8 the department shall specify.

9 For the purposes of this subsection, "categorization" means
10 systematic identification of the readiness and capabilities of
11 hospitals and their staffs to adequately, expeditiously, and
12 efficiently receive and treat emergency patients.

13 (b) The department shall establish, administer, and
14 maintain an [~~aeromedical~~] emergency [~~medical~~] air-medical
15 services system designed to collect and analyze data to measure
16 the efficiency and effectiveness of each phase of the statewide
17 emergency [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical program.

18 The department shall monitor [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical
19 emergency ambulance service flights statewide to include date of
20 service, patient demographics, transport diagnosis, and medical
21 outcomes. The department medicom center shall work with each



1 air-medical service provider and health care facility as the
2 intermediary to arrange emergency transport of [~~bariatric~~]
3 patients by licensed air-medical service providers, or by the
4 United States Coast Guard, and maintain a registry of all
5 emergency transports provided [~~by the United States Coast~~
6 ~~Guard~~]. All statewide [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical service
7 providers shall submit their data to the department as specified
8 and requested by the department.

9 The statewide [~~aeromedical~~] emergency [~~medical~~] air-medical
10 services system shall serve the emergency health needs of the
11 people of the State by identifying:

- 12 (1) The system's strengths and weaknesses;
 - 13 (2) The allocation of resources; and
 - 14 (3) The development of [~~rotary-wing~~] emergency
15 [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical services standards;
- 16 provided that emergency helicopter use, including triage
17 protocols, shall be based on national [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical
18 triage and transport guidelines established by the Association
19 of Air Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons, the
20 National Association of Emergency Medical [~~Service~~] Services
21 Physicians, or other department-approved national [~~aeromedical~~]



1 air-medical accreditation agency. The department, in the
2 implementation of this subsection, shall plan, coordinate, and
3 provide assistance to all entities and agencies, public and
4 private, involved in the statewide system.

5 (c) The department shall use an emergency [~~aeromedical~~
6 ~~services~~] air-medical quality improvement committee comprised of
7 representatives of trauma, emergency, and tertiary care
8 physicians and providers to analyze information collected from
9 the [~~aeromedical~~] air-medical quality improvement performance
10 measures as established by the [~~American College of Surgeons,~~]
11 department, and to recommend system standards and resources to
12 maintain and improve [~~the~~] Hawaii emergency [~~aeromedical~~] air-
13 medical services [~~system~~]."

14 SECTION 10. Section 321-231, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "[~~+~~]**§321-231**[~~+~~] **Grants.** The state system may seek and
17 accept any funds or property and other desirable support and
18 assistance from any source whatsoever, whether gift, grant,
19 services or any combination thereof, subject to applicable laws.
20 In the event that any grant applications are made in relation to
21 the state system, or any component thereof, the department shall



1 consult with the advisory [~~committee~~] council and provide
2 technical assistance in the preparation, management, or
3 administration of the application or the grant, or both."

4 SECTION 11. Sections 321-223, 321-224.4, and 321-532,
5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the title of chapter 321, part
6 XVIII, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by substituting the
7 term "systems of care" wherever the term "services system"
8 appears, as the context requires.

9 SECTION 12. Sections 46-191, 46-193, 46-196, 46-198, and
10 321-235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by substituting
11 the word "air-medicine" wherever the word "aeromedical" appears,
12 as the context requires.

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

15 SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Health; State Emergency Medical Services System;
Systems of Care

Description:

Modernizes Hawaii's emergency medical services laws to align
with current best practices. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

