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# 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 time-  
4 sensitive, emergency medical systems of care. Recent emergency  
5 events across the State have exposed significant gaps in  
6 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 Aligning the State's emergency medical services statutes  
4 with 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 the  
14 State's emergency medical services statutes to establish a  
15 comprehensive, time-sensitive, emergency medical systems of care  
16 model that strengthens the State's capacity to respond  
17 effectively to emergencies and safeguard the health of our  
18 residents, living on all islands.

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



1           "**S321-221 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  
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~~] state-

1 licensed clinician and in accordance with rules adopted by the  
2 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~~] air-  
8 medical services, which shall meet the requirements of  
9 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 communication  
12 system [~~for the service area,~~ statewide 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 board-  
21          eligible or board-certified by the American Board of



1           Emergency Medicine [~~and~~]; provided further that at  
2           least one physician shall be engaged in the practice  
3           of pediatrics and be board-eligible or board-certified  
4           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 under section 321-225, the levels of emergency medical  
18 services that shall be implemented in each county within the  
19 state service area. The department may contract to provide  
20 emergency medical services, including emergency ~~[aeromedical]~~  
21 air-medical services, or any necessary component of the



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



1 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 3134  
S.D. 1

**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. (SD1)

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