

A Bill for an Act Relating to State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. In Act 148, Session Laws of Hawaii 1978, the legislature found that establishment of a state comprehensive emergency medical services system was a matter of compelling public interest. By providing for a system of personnel, facilities, and equipment as well as training, coordination, and use of available public safety resources, Act 148 has helped to ensure the effective and coordinated delivery of health care services under emergency conditions.

The legislature is aware that rapid defibrillation, using automatic external defibrillators, is a valid and beneficial medical intervention that is important to an effective emergency medical services system. The American Heart Association strongly endorses the use of early defibrillation by first responders as the key intervention for increasing the survival chances of cardiac arrest patients. Accordingly, the legislature finds that all personnel whose jobs require the performance of basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be trained to operate automatic external defibrillators as recommended by the American Heart Association.

The purpose of this Act is to provide for appropriate training and resources to allow emergency service personnel to provide early defibrillation to victims of cardiac arrest.

SECTION 2. Section 321-224, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**“§321-224 Department of health, functions, duties.** In addition to other functions and duties assigned [to the department of health] under this part, [it shall have but not be limited to] the [following functions and duties. The] department shall:

- (1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services[.];
- (2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the State, which shall meet the requirements of this part, subject to section 321-228[.];
- (3) Provide training for basic life support personnel[,] and advance life support personnel, as provided in section 321-229[.];
- (4) Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation of the state system subject to section 321-230[.];
- (5) Coordinate emergency medical resources, and the allocation of the state system’s services and facilities, in the event of mass casualties, natural disasters, national emergencies, and other emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and national disaster plans, and participation in exercises to test [such disaster] these plans[.];
- (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a communication system for the state system[.];
- (7) Assist each county in the development of a “911” emergency telephone system[.];
- (8) Secure technical assistance and other assistance and consultation necessary to the implementation of this part, subject to section 321-230[.];

- (9) Implement public information and education programs to inform the public of the state system and its use, and [to] disseminate [such] other emergency medical information, including appropriate methods of medical self-help and first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training programs in the State[.];
- (10) Establish standards and provide training for dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment and operations[.];
- (11) Establish a program that will enable emergency service personnel to provide early defibrillation; and
- [(11)] (12) Consult with the advisory committee on matters relating to the implementation of this part."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$45,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1993-1994, for the purposes of purchasing six defibrillation devices at \$7,500 each to enable the administration of early defibrillation by emergency service personnel. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1993.

(Approved June 21, 1993.)