

ACT 2

S.B. NO. 745

A Bill for an Act Relating to Emergency Medical Services.

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

PART I

SECTION 1. Section 321-222, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

““Emergency aeromedical services” means a secondary response system that provides immediate critical care and transport by rotary-wing aircraft of a patient to a facility that provides specialized medical care.”

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

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

- (1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services;
- (2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the State, including emergency aeromedical services, which shall meet the requirements of this part, subject to section 321-228;
- (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of training courses offered to emergency medical services personnel who provide basic, intermediate, and advanced life support, consult and coordinate with the University of Hawaii, or any other accredited community college, college, or university, or any professional organization that provides emergency medical services training, regarding the training for basic, intermediate, and advanced 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 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 for 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 disseminate 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;
- (12) Establish within the department the emergency medical service system for children;
- (13) Consult with the advisory committee on matters relating to the implementation of this part; and
- (14) Establish and maintain standards for emergency medical services course instructor qualifications and requirements for emergency medical services training facilities.’’

SECTION 3. Section 321-228, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“**§321-228 Emergency medical services; counties.** The department [~~of health~~] shall determine, in consultation with the advisory committee under section 321-225, the levels of emergency medical services [~~which~~] that shall be implemented in each county. The department [~~of health~~] may contract to provide emergency medical services, including emergency aeromedical services, or any necessary component of a county emergency services system in conformance with the state system. In the event any county shall apply to the department to operate emergency medical ambulance services within the respective county, the department [~~of health~~] may contract with the county for the provision of [~~such~~] those services. The department shall operate emergency medical ambulance services or contract with a private agency in those counties which do not apply to it under this section. Any county or private agency contracting to provide emergency medical ambulance services under this section shall be required by the department to implement [~~such~~] those services in a manner and at a level consistent with the levels determined under this section.’’

SECTION 4. Section 321-230, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“**§321-230 Technical assistance, data collection, evaluation.** (a) The department [~~of health~~] may contract for technical assistance and consultation, including but not limited to categorization, data collection, and evaluation appropriate to the needs of the state system. The collection and analysis of statewide emergency medical services data, including pediatrics, trauma, cardiac, medical, and behavioral medical emergencies, [~~is~~] shall be for the purpose of improving the quality of services provided.

The department [~~of health~~] may implement and maintain a trauma registry for the collection of information concerning the treatment of critical trauma patients at state designated trauma centers, and carry out a system for the management of that information. The system may provide for the recording of information concerning treatment received before and after a trauma patient’s admission to a hospital or medical center. All state designated trauma centers shall submit to the department of health periodic reports of each patient treated for trauma in the state system in such manner as the department shall specify.

For the purposes of this [~~section,~~] subsection, “categorization” means systematic identification of the readiness and capabilities of hospitals and their staffs to adequately, expeditiously, and efficiently receive and treat emergency patients.

(b) The department shall establish, administer, and maintain an aeromedical emergency medical services system designed to collect and analyze data to measure

the efficiency and effectiveness of each phase of an emergency aeromedical program.

The aeromedical emergency medical services system shall serve the emergency health needs of the people of the State by identifying:

- (1) The system's strengths and weaknesses;
- (2) The allocation of resources; and
- (3) The development of rotary-wing emergency aeromedical services standards;

provided that emergency helicopter use, including triage protocols, shall be based on national aeromedical triage and transport guidelines established by the Association of Air Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons and the National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians. The department, in the implementation of this subsection, shall plan, coordinate, and provide assistance to all entities and agencies, public and private, involved in the system.

(c) The department shall use an emergency aeromedical services quality improvement committee comprised of representatives of trauma, emergency, and tertiary care physicians and providers to analyze information collected from the aeromedical quality improvement performance measures as established by the American College of Surgeons, and to recommend system standards and resources to maintain and improve the Hawaii emergency aeromedical services system."

PART II

SECTION 5. The legislature finds that Hawaii, an island state, is dependent upon the aeromedical transportation of patients from neighbor island medical facilities who require specialized care at tertiary hospitals in Honolulu. The rural nature of neighbor island communities also requires long ground transport times to medical facilities with the capability to stabilize and treat critical medical conditions. An emergency aeromedical system must assure timely transport of seriously ill and injured persons to definitive medical facilities based on national aeromedical standards meeting medical necessity criteria.

In particular, Maui county is in need of emergency aeromedical services provided by a helicopter aeromedical unit to complement and augment emergency ground ambulance and fixed-wing transport services. Residents of the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai are without an adequate emergency aeromedical system to meet the American College of Surgeons performance measure of four hours from the time a serious head injury patient arrives at the initial receiving facility until arrival at a facility capable of providing appropriate medical care. In addition, there is not an adequate measure of the delay from the time of the trauma or serious illness to arrival at a facility capable of providing appropriate and potentially life-saving care.

The purpose of this part is to establish for the county of Maui a helicopter critical care emergency aeromedical service which operates twenty-four hours a day, and is staffed by medical personnel to provide rapid transport to appropriate medical care facilities. Establishment of the emergency helicopter unit is intended to respond to intra-county emergencies; integrate ground, rotor, and fixed-wing transport with the 911 response system; augment aeromedical services that fixed-wing transport cannot provide; and enhance critical emergency rapid transport options for seriously, critically ill patients especially those from remote areas such as Lanai, Molokai, and Hana. It is not the intent of this part to supplant existing ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or non-time sensitive inter-facility transportation. The emergency helicopter unit shall utilize triage protocols to ensure the medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter utilization shall be based on national aeromedical triage and transport guidelines as established by the Association of Air

Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$611,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2004-2005, to fund the provision of emergency aeromedical helicopter services for the county of Maui; provided that no funds shall be made available under this part unless the county of Maui provides \$611,500 for the purpose for which this sum is appropriated; and provided further that emergency aeromedical helicopter services shall use triage protocols and be based on national aeromedical, triage, and transport guidelines established by the Association of Air Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

In establishing this service, the department of health is encouraged to partner with the county of Maui, health care providers, and the private sector, to ensure that this necessary service is provided in the most cost efficient manner, utilizing all available resources.

SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$388,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2004-2005, to integrate additional ground ambulance services with the emergency aeromedical helicopter services.

SECTION 8. The sums appropriated in section 6 and 7 of this Act shall be expended by the department of health through its emergency medical service system for the purposes of this Act.

PART III

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

SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that sections 6 and 7 of this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2003.

(Vetoed by Governor and veto overridden by Legislature on July 8, 2003.)