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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a high percentage of  
2 calls for emergency medical services are from repeat callers who  
3 call multiple times per day for issues that do not require an  
4 emergency response. Additionally, most 911 calls originate from  
5 residences and are often for medical concerns that could be  
6 addressed by a functioning community paramedic system. As the  
7 call volume rises each year and the number of ambulance stations  
8 remains the same, it is critical to establish community  
9 paramedic services to provide appropriate services to non-  
10 emergency callers who would otherwise be using valuable  
11 emergency medical services needed by other individuals.

12           For these reasons, the legislature adopted House Concurrent  
13 Resolution No. 90 during the Regular Session of 2016. The  
14 resolution requested the chief of the department of health,  
15 emergency medical services and injury prevention system branch,  
16 to convene and chair a working group to develop a community  
17 paramedic program, including educational standards for



1 certifications, to alleviate emergency services personnel from  
2 having to respond to non-emergency calls. The working group, in  
3 its December 2016 report to the legislature, recommended that a  
4 community paramedic pilot program be established at two to three  
5 of the six metropolitan and rural sites it identified. The  
6 working group found that community paramedicine could reduce the  
7 high volume of 911 calls for non-emergent medical conditions.  
8 It also found that community paramedicine could improve health  
9 in the State by addressing the following: callers needing  
10 alternate destinations other than emergency departments; post  
11 hospital discharge care; the homeless population; hospice care;  
12 behavioral health; and acute and chronic medical conditions such  
13 as infectious diseases, diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

14 The purpose of this Act is to implement the recommendations  
15 of the working group convened pursuant to House Concurrent  
16 Resolution No. 90, Regular Session of 2016, by establishing and  
17 appropriating funds for a three-year community paramedic  
18 services pilot program and requiring an evaluation of the  
19 program's effectiveness.

20 SECTION 2. There is established a three-year community  
21 paramedic services pilot program, to be administered by the



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1 department of health. The pilot program shall commence on July  
2 1, 2017, and shall terminate on June 30, 2020. The program  
3 shall be conducted at two to three pilot sites approved by the  
4 director of health. The program shall include the following  
5 components:

6 (1) Training and certification. Kapiolani community  
7 college shall:

8 (A) Develop a community paramedic curriculum in  
9 consultation with the department of health;

10 (B) Institute a community paramedic training program;  
11 and

12 (C) In partnership with the University of Hawaii  
13 community colleges, train community health  
14 workers based on common core competencies to work  
15 with community paramedics.

16 The department of health shall develop and implement a  
17 community paramedic certification procedure;

18 (2) Staffing. The department of health shall recruit and  
19 hire a community paramedicine administrator, an  
20 appropriate number of community paramedicine medical



- 1 directors for each pilot site, and other personnel as  
2 needed;
- 3 (3) Equipment and supplies. The department of health  
4 shall procure non-transport vehicles and contract with  
5 emergency medical services providers to provide  
6 necessary supplies and medical equipment;
- 7 (4) Medical records. Community paramedics providing  
8 services under the pilot program shall initially use  
9 the existing Hawaii emergency medical services medical  
10 record system, but shall transition to a more suitable  
11 medical record system when funds become available and  
12 such a system is identified; and
- 13 (5) Billing. The department of health shall develop a fee  
14 schedule for community paramedic services in  
15 consultation with insurance carriers. Billing and  
16 collections for community paramedic services shall be  
17 conducted by the department of health, emergency  
18 medical services and injury prevention system branch.  
19 All moneys collected shall be deposited into the  
20 general fund of the State.



1 SECTION 3. The department of health, emergency medical  
2 services and injury prevention system branch, shall submit a  
3 written report on the results of the three-year community  
4 paramedic services pilot program, including any proposed  
5 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
6 to the convening of the regular session of 2021. The report  
7 shall address but shall not be limited to:

8 (1) An evaluation of the selected pilot sites'  
9 effectiveness in terms of patient outcomes, 911 system  
10 impact, and costs within eighteen months of the start  
11 of services at the pilot sites; and

12 (2) A calculation of the program's return on investment,  
13 based on:

14 (A) The estimated cost savings from any reductions in  
15 usages of emergency ambulance services, emergency  
16 facilities, and associated personnel as a direct  
17 result of the provision of community paramedic  
18 services during the three-year pilot program; and

19 (B) The overall impact of the pilot program.

20 SECTION 4. No later than January 2, 2018, the department  
21 of health shall adopt interim rules, which shall be exempt from



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1 chapter 91 and chapter 201M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to  
 2 effectuate the purposes of this Act; provided that the interim  
 3 rules shall remain in effect until \_\_\_\_\_, or until the  
 4 department adopts rules pursuant to chapter 91, whichever occurs  
 5 sooner.

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much  
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
 9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 10 2018-2019 for the community paramedic services pilot program  
 11 established pursuant to this Act.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 13 of health for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017, and  
 15 shall be repealed on December 31, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Calvin H. King*  
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*See a press*  
*L.H.*  
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JAN 19 2017



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**Report Title:**

Health; Community Paramedic Services; Pilot Program; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Implements the recommendations of the working group convened pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 90, Regular Session of 2016, by establishing and appropriating funds for a three-year community paramedic services pilot program. Requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2021.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

