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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of the  
2 island of Hawaii would greatly benefit from the addition of an  
3 advanced life support ambulance to augment the Hawaii county  
4 emergency medical services system for residents of the Puna  
5 area. The population of this area has significantly increased  
6 over the years, which has corresponded with a steady increase in  
7 calls for emergency medical services.

8           The legislature further finds that access to primary health  
9 care in Puna is challenging for the community. For many  
10 residents, primary care services are as many as thirty miles  
11 away. Coupled with economic and transportation challenges,  
12 emergency medical services have become the access point for  
13 health care to many residents.

14           According to a recent survey of the Hawaii county fire  
15 department's responses to the Puna district, it takes an average  
16 roundtrip of almost two hours to respond to each Puna emergency  
17 call. Emergency calls from Puna have increased to over five



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1 thousand calls per year. It is common for paramedics to have  
2 over ten transports in each work shift, which equates to twenty  
3 or more hours per each twenty-four hour shift. Because of this  
4 increase in calls, Hilo paramedic units, which are the busiest  
5 on the island, are often dispatched into the Puna district to  
6 cover the area when the Puna paramedic units are responding to  
7 other calls. This results in fewer Hilo paramedic units being  
8 available to respond to Hilo emergency calls. Moreover, the  
9 increased volume of calls creates a high risk for errors in  
10 judgment caused by fatigue, which can impact the health and  
11 safety of the patient.

12 The legislature further finds that a new advanced life  
13 support ambulance will help reduce death and disability among  
14 residents and visitors on the island of Hawaii. A timely  
15 response to a 911 call is critical to increase the likelihood of  
16 successful outcomes for injured or sick individuals. Given the  
17 island's significant growth and aging population, an advanced  
18 life support ambulance is needed and will be cost-effective.

19 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for an  
20 advanced life support ambulance to be based in the Puna area on  
21 the island of Hawaii and to be used during daily peak hours from



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1 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including the acquisition of a vehicle  
 2 and equipment, and funding personnel costs for state-certified  
 3 emergency medical service personnel.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,260,135 or so much  
 6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
 7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 8 2018-2019 for one advanced life support ambulance to be:

- 9 (1) Based in Puna on the island of Hawaii; and
- 10 (2) Used during daily peak hours from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00  
 11 p.m.,

12 and to include the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment and  
 13 funding personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical  
 14 service personnel.

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

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures: Gary A. Johnson, H. H. H. H. H., R. H. H. H. H., Cindy Erwin]*



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**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulance

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for one advanced life support ambulance to be based in Puna on the island of Hawaii and to be used from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to include a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs.

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