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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 district of Puna is the fastest growing district in  
6 the State; and thus, has increasing calls for emergency medical  
7 services. Currently, the high demand for Puna emergency  
8 services means Hilo ambulances need to travel to Puna for  
9 emergency calls. Hilo ambulances sometimes need to travel over  
10 thirty miles with some of those miles on substandard unpaved  
11 roads. An ambulance designed for unpaved roads would require  
12 less service and prevent emergency delays. Every Hilo ambulance  
13 that responds to a Puna emergency means one less ambulance  
14 available for Hilo, the second largest city in the State; and  
15 thus, an ambulance based in Puna not only benefits Puna, but  
16 also benefits the rest of East Hawaii Island.



1           The legislature further finds that access to primary health  
2 care in Puna is a challenge for that community. For many  
3 residents, primary care services are as much as one hour away.  
4 Coupled with economic and transportation challenges, emergency  
5 medical services have become the access point for health care to  
6 many residents.

7           According to a recent survey of the Hawaii county fire  
8 department's responses to the Puna district, it takes an average  
9 round-trip of almost two hours to respond to each Puna emergency  
10 call. Emergency calls from Puna have increased to over five  
11 thousand calls per year. It is common for paramedics to have  
12 over ten transports in each work shift, which equates to twenty  
13 or more hours for each twenty-four hour shift. Because of this  
14 increase in calls, Hilo paramedic units, which are the busiest  
15 on the island, are often dispatched into the Puna district to  
16 cover the area when the Puna paramedic units are responding to  
17 other calls. This results in fewer Hilo paramedic units being  
18 available to respond to Hilo emergency calls. Moreover, the  
19 increased volume of calls creates a high risk for errors in  
20 judgment caused by fatigue, which can impact the health and  
21 safety of the patient.



1           The legislature further finds that a new advanced life  
2 support ambulance will help reduce death and disability among  
3 residents and visitors on the island of Hawaii. A timely  
4 response to a 911 call is critical to increase the likelihood of  
5 successful outcomes for injured or sick individuals. Given the  
6 island's significant growth and aging population, an advanced  
7 life support ambulance is needed and cost-effective.

8           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for an  
9 advanced life support ambulance to be based in the Puna area on  
10 the island of Hawaii and to be used during daily peak hours from  
11 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including the acquisition of a vehicle  
12 and equipment, and funding personnel costs for state-certified  
13 emergency medical service personnel.

14           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,260,135 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for one  
17 advanced life support ambulance to be:

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



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1 and to include the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment and  
 2 funding personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical  
 3 service personnel.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 5 health for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
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*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

JAN 10 2018



# H.B. NO. 1616

**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulance

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for 1 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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