

ACT: 2
Approved: H. C. W.

THE SENATE
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2003
STATE OF HAWAII

V E T S. B. NO.
A BILL FOR AN ACT

745
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

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;



- 1 (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of
2 training courses offered to emergency medical services
3 personnel who provide basic, intermediate, and
4 advanced life support, consult and coordinate with the
5 University of Hawaii, or any other accredited
6 community college, college, or university, or any
7 professional organization that provides emergency
8 medical services training, regarding the training for
9 basic, intermediate, and advanced life support
10 personnel, as provided in section 321-229;
- 11 (4) Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation
12 of the state system, subject to section 321-230;
- 13 (5) Coordinate emergency medical resources and the
14 allocation of the state system's services and
15 facilities in the event of mass casualties, natural
16 disasters, national emergencies, and other
17 emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and
18 national disaster plans, and participation in
19 exercises to test these plans;
- 20 (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a communication
21 system for the state system;



- 1 (7) Assist each county in the development of a "911"
2 emergency telephone system;
- 3 (8) Secure technical assistance and other assistance and
4 consultation necessary for the implementation of this
5 part, subject to section 321-230;
- 6 (9) Implement public information and education programs to
7 inform the public of the state system and its use, and
8 disseminate other emergency medical information,
9 including appropriate methods of medical self-help and
10 first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training
11 programs in the State;
- 12 (10) Establish standards and provide training for
13 dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a
14 program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment
15 and operations;
- 16 (11) Establish a program that will enable emergency service
17 personnel to provide early defibrillation;
- 18 (12) Establish within the department the emergency medical
19 service system for children;
- 20 (13) Consult with the advisory committee on matters
21 relating to the implementation of this part; and



1 (14) Establish and maintain standards for emergency medical
2 services course instructor qualifications and
3 requirements for emergency medical services training
4 facilities."

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

7 "**§321-228 Emergency medical services; counties.** The
8 department [~~of health~~] shall determine, in consultation with the
9 advisory committee under section 321-225, the levels of
10 emergency medical services [~~which~~] that shall be implemented in
11 each county. The department [~~of health~~] may contract to provide
12 emergency medical services, including emergency aeromedical
13 services, or any necessary component of a county emergency
14 services system in conformance with the state system. In the
15 event any county shall apply to the department to operate
16 emergency medical ambulance services within the respective
17 county, the department [~~of health~~] may contract with the county
18 for the provision of [~~such~~] those services. The department
19 shall operate emergency medical ambulance services or contract
20 with a private agency in those counties which do not apply to it
21 under this section. Any county or private agency contracting to
22 provide emergency medical ambulance services under this section



1 shall be required by the department to implement [~~such~~] those
2 services in a manner and at a level consistent with the levels
3 determined under this section."

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

6 "§321-230 Technical assistance, data collection,
7 evaluation. (a) The department [~~of health~~] may contract for
8 technical assistance and consultation, including but not limited
9 to categorization, data collection, and evaluation appropriate
10 to the needs of the state system. The collection and analysis
11 of statewide emergency medical services data, including
12 pediatrics, trauma, cardiac, medical, and behavioral medical
13 emergencies, [~~is~~] shall be for the purpose of improving the
14 quality of services provided.

15 The department [~~of health~~] may implement and maintain a
16 trauma registry for the collection of information concerning the
17 treatment of critical trauma patients at state designated trauma
18 centers, and carry out a system for the management of that
19 information. The system may provide for the recording of
20 information concerning treatment received before and after a
21 trauma patient's admission to a hospital or medical center. All
22 state designated trauma centers shall submit to the department



1 of health periodic reports of each patient treated for trauma in
2 the state system in such manner as the department shall specify.

3 For the purposes of this [~~section~~] subsection,
4 "categorization" means systematic identification of the
5 readiness and capabilities of hospitals and their staffs to
6 adequately, expeditiously, and efficiently receive and treat
7 emergency patients.

8 (b) The department shall establish, administer, and
9 maintain an aeromedical emergency medical services system
10 designed to collect and analyze data to measure the efficiency
11 and effectiveness of each phase of an emergency aeromedical
12 program.

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

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

20 provided that emergency helicopter use, including triage
21 protocols, shall be based on national aeromedical triage and
22 transport guidelines established by the Association of Air



1 Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons and the
2 National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians.
3 The department, in the implementation of this subsection, shall
4 plan, coordinate, and provide assistance to all entities and
5 agencies, public and private, involved in the system.

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

14 PART II

15 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that Hawaii, an island
16 state, is dependent upon the aeromedical transportation of
17 patients from neighbor island medical facilities who require
18 specialized care at tertiary hospitals in Honolulu. The rural
19 nature of neighbor island communities also requires long ground
20 transport times to medical facilities with the capability to
21 stabilize and treat critical medical conditions. An emergency
22 aeromedical system must assure timely transport of seriously ill



1 and injured persons to definitive medical facilities based on
2 national aeromedical standards meeting medical necessity
3 criteria.

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

17 The purpose of this part is to establish for the county of
18 Maui a helicopter critical care emergency aeromedical service
19 which operates twenty-four hours a day, and is staffed by
20 medical personnel to provide rapid transport to appropriate
21 medical care facilities. Establishment of the emergency
22 helicopter unit is intended to respond to intra-county



