

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2007

PURSUANT TO SECTION 321-234 (d) HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, REQUIRING THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE RECEIPT AND
EXPENDITURES FROM THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SPECIAL FUND

PREPARED BY:
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION 321-234 (d) HRS requests the Department of Health to submit an annual report to the Legislature that outlines the receipts of, and expenditures from, the emergency medical services special fund (EMS special fund).

The EMS special fund, established in H.R.S. 321-234, was created by Act 158 of the 2004 Legislature to provide funds for operation of an enhanced and expanded state comprehensive emergency medical services system. Act 158 also amended H.R.S. 249-31 to raise the state vehicle registration fee by five dollars per vehicle, with the resulting revenues to be deposited into the EMS special fund.

The allocation of EMS special funds was based on a study conducted by the department in 2001 that prioritized the areas that additional ambulance services were needed through-out Hawaii. The priority areas were Metropolitan Honolulu, Waianae/Nanakuli, Kaawa/Kahaluu on the island of Oahu, Wailea on the island of Maui, and Ocean View Estates on the island of Hawaii. These areas were specifically targeted for enhanced services to be paid for from the new EMS special fund.

Act 158 also recognized the shortage of paramedics and need for training of emergency medical personnel by allocating funding for enhanced paramedic training on the neighbor islands. The allocation of funds was based upon funding availability and the resources available for development and training.

The five dollars per vehicle registration fee continues to be deposited into the EMS special fund and has been the only source of revenues. The department continues to maintain and operate the statewide EMS system including the enhancements added pursuant to Act 158 through its contracted providers. The EMS special fund revenues in FY 2006 were \$4,766,793.97 while expenditures in FY 2006 were \$3,299,148.31. The remaining encumbrances, as of June 30, 2006, were \$1,176,790.82.

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 321-234 (d) HRS,
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SPECIAL FUND**

The emergency medical services special fund (EMS special fund), established in H.R.S. 321-234, was created by Act 158 of the 2004 Legislature to provide funds for operation of an enhanced and expanded state comprehensive emergency medical services system. The statutory language is as follows:

“§321-234 Emergency medical services special fund. (a) There is established within the state treasury a special fund to be known as the emergency medical services special fund to be administered and expended by the department.

(b) The moneys in the special fund shall be used by the department for operating a state comprehensive emergency medical services system including enhanced and expanded services, and shall not be used to supplant funding for emergency medical services authorized prior to July 1, 2004.

(c) Fees remitted pursuant to section 249-31, interest and investment earnings attributable to the moneys in the special fund, legislative appropriations, and grants, donations, and contributions from private or public sources for the purpose of the fund, shall be deposited into the special fund.

(d) The department shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session that outlines the receipts of, and expenditures from, the special fund.”

Act 158 also amended H.R.S. 249-31 as follows:

"§249-31 State registration fee. (a) All vehicles and motor vehicles in the State as defined in section 249-1, including antique motor vehicles, except as otherwise provided in sections 249-3 to 249-6 shall be subject to a [~~\$20~~] \$25 annual vehicle registration fee.

(b) From each annual motor vehicle registration fee, the director shall deposit \$20 into the state highway fund and \$5 into the emergency medical services special fund."

The allocation of EMS special funds directed by Act 158 was based on a study conducted by the department in 2001 that prioritized the areas that additional ambulance services were needed through-out the state. The priority areas were Metropolitan Honolulu, Waianae/Nanakuli, Kaawa/Kahaluu on the island of Oahu, Wailea on the island of Maui, and Ocean View Estates on the island of Hawaii. These areas were specifically targeted for enhanced services to be paid for from the new EMS special fund.

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