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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO  
ADDRESS ISSUES RELATING TO PATIENT TRANSFER AND AMBULANCE  
SERVICES AND EVALUATE POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS.

1           WHEREAS, patients on Oahu and in the neighbor islands are  
2 currently experiencing significant delays while waiting for  
3 transfer to a higher level of care; and  
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5           WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Chapter of the American  
6 College of Emergency Physicians (HACEP), these delays have led  
7 to serious, sometimes even fatal repercussions for affected  
8 patients; and  
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10           WHEREAS, HACEP has conducted a preliminary review of these  
11 cases which affirms the critical need to address this issue and  
12 has identified three primary issues with the current patient  
13 transfer and ambulance system; and  
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15           WHEREAS, first, unless there is a preexisting agreement  
16 between two hospitals, if a physician caring for a patient needs  
17 specific services not available at the physician's healthcare  
18 facility, the physician must research what is available at other  
19 facilities and contact them one by one to determine whether the  
20 other facility has the services and bed space to care for the  
21 patient; this can lead to significant delays of up to five days  
22 in some reported cases; and  
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24           WHEREAS, second, patient transportation capacity can be a  
25 major obstacle; even if a bed or service is available in another  
26 facility, a suitable transportation service must also be  
27 available, one which can accommodate the specific medical needs  
28 of the patient; and  
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# H.C.R. NO. 172

1           WHEREAS, currently, only one company, Hawaii Life Flight,  
2 offers air ambulance services for neighbor islands, and on Oahu,  
3 American Medical Response is the sole private ground ambulance  
4 and primary provider of inter-facility transport, with Honolulu  
5 Emergency Medical Services primarily focused on emergency 911  
6 responses; and  
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8           WHEREAS, third, limited bed availability and the ability to  
9 provide appropriate care by a receiving hospital must also be  
10 addressed; even if a bed is available at a certain facility to  
11 receive a patient, the facility must also have the necessary  
12 personnel and infrastructure to care for that patient which  
13 could include specialized services such as hemodialysis, cardiac  
14 catheterization, and provision of ICU level of care, among  
15 others; and  
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17           WHEREAS, to develop and evaluate potential solutions to  
18 these complex issues will likely require the input, expertise,  
19 and collaborative efforts of the many stakeholders involved in  
20 providing care to patients throughout the State; now, therefore,  
21

22           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
23 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
24 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Director of  
25 Health is requested to convene a working group to address issues  
26 relating to the existing system of patient transfer and  
27 ambulance services and evaluate potential solutions including:  
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- 29           (1) Formation of a statewide coordinated transfer system  
30 to identify available beds, specialized medical  
31 services, medical specialist availability, and level  
32 of care;  
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- 34           (2) Increasing transportation capacity for both ground and  
35 air transport of patients, including interisland air  
36 transport of patients; and  
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- 38           (3) Increasing bed and specialized medical service  
39 availability at accepting hospitals, with a focus on  
40 high-need areas such as hemodialysis capacity; and  
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# H.C.R. NO. 172

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health invite  
2 representatives of the following stakeholders to serve on the  
3 working group:

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- 5 (1) The emergency services or fire department of each
- 6 county in the State;
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- 8 (2) Emergency medical services advisory committee;
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- 10 (3) Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
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- 12 (4) HACEP;
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- 14 (5) Hospitals and federally qualified health centers
- 15 serving both rural and urban populations, including
- 16 representatives from each county in the State; and
- 17
- 18 (6) Transportation service providers including Hawaii Life
- 19 Flight and American Medical Response;
- 20

21 provided that the Director of Health may invite other  
22 stakeholders as necessary; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
25 to submit a final report to the Legislature, including  
26 recommendations and proposed legislation, no later than twenty  
27 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
31 who is in turn requested to transmit a copy to each stakeholder  
32 invited to the working group.

33  
34  
35 OFFERED BY:



MAR 08 2024

