
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A STATE TRAUMA
SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, trauma care is a public health priority yet trauma
2 care in Hawaii is in a state of crisis; and
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4 WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death for persons
5 between the ages of one to forty-four in the State of Hawaii,
6 causing more deaths than are caused by cancer and heart disease
7 combined; and
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9 WHEREAS, when injuries are serious, specialized equipment
10 and prompt access to physicians and other trained health care
11 providers make a significant difference in a trauma patient's
12 health outcome; and
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14 WHEREAS, the rates of unintentional injury on the neighbor
15 islands were more than double those for the City and County of
16 Honolulu across most categories, suggesting an association
17 between delayed access to organized, definitive trauma care and
18 risk of death in areas outside of Oahu; and
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20 WHEREAS, this underscores the seriousness of traumatic
21 injury as a public health problem statewide; and
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23 WHEREAS, a weak trauma system decreases the state's
24 readiness to respond not only to the normal flow of critically
25 injured patients, but to unforeseen disasters and emergencies as
26 well; and
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28 WHEREAS, as the American College of Surgeons (ACS) noted in
29 its October 2005 report, " Trauma System Consultation, State of
30 Hawaii" extreme isolation and limited physician re-supply
31 capability renders Hawaii uniquely vulnerable to natural
32 disasters that may occur in a mid-Pacific environment; and



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2 WHEREAS, a functional trauma system with the capacity to
3 handle a surge in demand is a fundamental necessity in
4 responding to both natural and man-made disasters; now,
5 therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
9 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
10 Health (DOH) is requested to begin the necessary preparations to
11 establish a State Trauma System (System) based on
12 recommendations provided in the October 2005 report by the ACS
13 entitled "Trauma System Consultation State of Hawaii"; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the establishment of the System
16 should include the:
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- 18 (1) Appointing and convening of a State Trauma Advisory
19 Committee (STAC), charged with the development of a
20 comprehensive, system-wide trauma performance
21 improvement (PI) plan under the guidance of the
22 Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention
23 System Branch of DOH;
24
- 25 (2) Development of a system-wide trauma PI plan, including
26 indicators relevant to the specific problems faced by
27 the state of Hawaii (e.g. time-to-definitive care;
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- 29 (3) Development and use of a statewide trauma registry to
30 identify PI problems within the state, to target
31 potential solutions, and provide "loop closure" for
32 specific system-wide PI interventions;
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- 34 (4) Establishment of County Trauma Audit Committees for
35 the counties of Hawaii, Maui, Honolulu, and Kauai that
36 meet at least quarterly to address system issues and
37 to coordinate PI plans;
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- 39 (5) Development of a process to provide more comprehensive
40 outreach based on specific clinical issues identified
41 by the trauma registry, for neighbor island and Oahu
42 trauma receiving hospitals;
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