

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO  
BEGIN NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO ESTABLISH A MOBILE  
EMERGENCY HOSPITAL UNIT IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has the responsibility of  
2 protecting and serving its communities by providing appropriate  
3 medical services during an emergency in a timely manner; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the significance of this responsibility has been  
6 demonstrated repeatedly during Hawaii's hurricane seasons,  
7 earthquakes, flash floods, tsunamis, sudden horrific tragedies  
8 such as the Sacred Falls landslide, the collision and sinking of  
9 the Ehime Maru sea vessel, and evacuations of schools due to  
10 hazardous materials conditions; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, a mobile emergency department and hospital, known  
13 as a MED-1 unit, can respond to crisis situations and provide  
14 instant on-site medical attention ranging from emergency medical  
15 care, surgical trauma, critical care, and anesthesia; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit can serve as a "surge hospital,"  
18 designed to respond to surges in numbers of patients during  
19 emergencies, or as a stand-alone quarantine facility capable of  
20 providing 14 general medical beds and expandable to accommodate  
21 as many as several hundred patients when a tenting system is in  
22 place; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, more than  
25 7,000 patients were served by a MED-1 unit set up in a parking  
26 lot in Waveland, Mississippi, for seven weeks when the existing  
27 local health care infrastructure was destroyed; and



1 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit served as a major trauma center and  
2 emergency room in New Orleans during the 2006 Mardi Gras when  
3 the existing medical infrastructures were in bad repair; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit can also serve as a quarantine  
6 facility in the event of a hazardous materials attack, pandemic,  
7 avian flu outbreak, or any disaster-related outbreak requiring  
8 quarantine; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a medical resource  
11 during emergencies and disasters, a MED-1 unit can also provide  
12 primary care and necessary healthcare infrastructure to  
13 communities lacking medical resources in parts of the islands  
14 where needs have already been identified, including Kahuku,  
15 Puna, and other areas; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, as a mobile emergency department and hospital on  
18 wheels, a MED-1 unit can be transported to various sites and may  
19 also be airlifted between islands via military transport  
20 airplanes; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit provides a mobile support trailer  
23 stocked with essential medical supplies and equipment, as well  
24 as living and sleeping quarters for a team of healthcare  
25 providers that can travel with the unit; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, Hawaii's isolation as a chain of islands requires  
28 sufficient and immediate emergency medical response from within  
29 the state until support from the mainland or elsewhere arrives;  
30 and  
31

32 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit would afford the people of Hawaii  
33 immediate access to medical resources during a natural or man-  
34 made disaster; now, therefore,  
35

36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
38 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Civil Defense  
39 Division of the Department of Defense (Civil Defense), in  
40 cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH), is requested to  
41 begin necessary preparations to establish a mobile emergency



# H.C.R. NO. 283

1 hospital MED-1 unit in Hawaii as a shared resource between Civil  
2 Defense and DOH, based on the known need for a comprehensive  
3 natural and man-made disaster response plan; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
7 of Civil Defense, and Director of Health.  
8  
9  
10

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*John M. Mignano*

MAR 14 2007

