
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 hospital unit can respond to
13 crisis situations and provide instant on-site medical attention
14 ranging from emergency medical care, surgical trauma, critical
15 care, and anesthesia; and
16

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

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



1 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit served as a major
2 trauma center and emergency room in New Orleans during the 2006
3 Mardi Gras when the existing medical infrastructure was in bad
4 repair; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

36
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
39 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Civil Defense
40 Division of the Department of Defense (Civil Defense), in
41 cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH), is requested to
42 begin necessary preparations to establish a mobile emergency
43 hospital mobile emergency hospital unit in Hawaii as a shared
44 resource between Civil Defense and DOH, based on the known need



1 for a comprehensive natural and man-made disaster response plan;
2 and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Civil Defense, in cooperation
5 with DOH, is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
6 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
7 of 2008, on the cost and logistics of providing a mobile
8 emergency hospital unit for the State of Hawaii, including any
9 recommendations and implementing legislation; and

10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Defense is
12 requested to provide a report to the Legislature no later than
13 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008,
14 with information regarding the possible role the Emergency
15 Management Assistance Compact, a congressionally ratified
16 organization that provides form and structure to interstate
17 mutual aid, could play in assisting Hawaii in times of
18 emergency; and

19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
22 of Civil Defense, Director of Health, and Adjutant General.

