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# HOUSE 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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30 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit served as a major  
31 trauma center and emergency room in New Orleans during the 2006  
32 Mardi Gras when the existing medical infrastructure was in bad  
33 repair; and



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2 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit can also serve as  
3 a quarantine facility in the event of a hazardous materials  
4 attack, pandemic, avian flu outbreak, or any disaster-related  
5 outbreak requiring quarantine; and  
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7 WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a medical resource  
8 during emergencies and disasters, a mobile emergency hospital  
9 unit can also provide primary care and necessary healthcare  
10 infrastructure to communities lacking medical resources in parts  
11 of the islands where needs have already been identified,  
12 including Kahuku, Puna, and other areas; and  
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14 WHEREAS, as a mobile emergency department and hospital on  
15 wheels, such a unit should also be able to be transported to  
16 various sites and may also be airlifted between islands via  
17 military transport airplanes; and  
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19 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit could provide a  
20 mobile support trailer stocked with essential medical supplies  
21 and equipment, as well as living and sleeping quarters for a  
22 team of healthcare providers that can travel with the unit; and  
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24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's isolation as a chain of islands requires  
25 sufficient and immediate emergency medical response from within  
26 the state until support from the mainland or elsewhere arrives;  
27 and  
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29 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit would afford the  
30 people of Hawaii immediate access to medical resources during a  
31 natural or man-made disaster; now, therefore,  
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
35 Session of 2007, that the Civil Defense Division of the  
36 Department of Defense (Civil Defense), in cooperation with the  
37 Department of Health (DOH), is requested to begin necessary  
38 preparations to establish a mobile emergency hospital mobile  
39 emergency hospital unit in Hawaii as a shared resource between  
40 Civil Defense and DOH, based on the known need for a  
41 comprehensive natural and man-made disaster response plan; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Civil Defense, in cooperation  
2 with DOH, is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no  
3 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
4 of 2008, on the cost and logistics of providing a mobile  
5 emergency hospital unit for the State of Hawaii, including any  
6 recommendations and implementing legislation; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Defense is  
9 requested to provide a report to the Legislature no later than  
10 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008,  
11 with information regarding the possible role the Emergency  
12 Management Assistance Compact, a congressionally ratified  
13 organization that provides form and structure to interstate  
14 mutual aid, could play in assisting Hawaii in times of  
15 emergency; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Civil  
19 Defense, Director of Health, and Adjutant General.

