
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States
2 Army's 68th Medical Company's Medical Assistance to Safety and
3 Traffic helicopters have served Hawaii for more than thirty
4 years. These military aeromedical helicopters have transported
5 over seven thousand patients and saved countless lives by
6 transporting patients from rural areas, particularly in West
7 Oahu and the North Shore of Oahu to hospitals located in
8 Honolulu. However, due to the increased military activity
9 particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq, the aeromedical
10 helicopters have been deployed. The legislature further finds
11 that subsequently, the Hawaii Army national guard helicopter
12 unit has been providing emergency medevac transportation on
13 Oahu, but that this unit has received a warning order for a
14 likely deployment to Iraq. The legislature recognizes that the
15 free medevac services provided by the Hawaii Army national guard
16 helicopter unit have not been extended beyond December 31, 2006.
17 This leaves rural Oahu residents without aeromedical services.



1 The aeromedical helicopters have provided a vital service
2 at no cost to rural Oahu. The legislature believes that
3 providing intra-island aeromedical services to rural Oahu is
4 necessary for the health and safety of residents and therefore
5 is a matter of statewide concern.

6 It is not the intent of this Act to supplant existing
7 ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or non-
8 emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical
9 helicopter unit shall use triage protocols to ensure the
10 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter use
11 shall be based on national aeromedical triage and transport
12 guidelines as established by the Association of Air Medical
13 Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National
14 Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to provide
16 intra-island emergency aeromedical services to rural Oahu only.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
20 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2008-2009, for the director of health to contract with an
22 existing government agency or United States military unit to



1 provide intra-island roto-wing emergency aeromedical services
2 for rural Oahu only:

3 (1) Provided that the emergency aeromedical helicopter
4 services:

5 (A) Shall not supplant existing ground or fixed-wing
6 transport, especially for routine or
7 non-emergency inter-facility transportation; and

8 (B) Shall use triage protocols that are based on
9 national aeromedical, triage, and transport
10 guidelines established by the Association of Air
11 Medical Services, the American College of
12 Surgeons, and the National Association of
13 Emergency Medical Services Physicians; and

14 (2) Provided further that the city and county of Honolulu
15 shall share equally with the State in the cost to
16 contract with an existing government agency or United
17 States military unit to provide intra-island roto-wing
18 aeromedical services for rural Oahu only; provided
19 that no moneys shall be made available under this
20 section unless the city and county of Honolulu
21 provides \$ for the purpose for which the
22 sums are appropriated.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of health for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Aeromedical Helicopter

Description:

Appropriates funds to department of health to contract with a government agency or U.S. military branch to provide intra-island only roto-wing aeromedical services for rural Oahu.

