

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENGAGE WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND OTHER FEDERAL AND MILITARY PARTNERS TO EXPLORE ESTABLISHING A MILITARY-CIVILIAN TRAUMA PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN THE HAWAII TRAUMA SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, trauma remains a leading cause of death and
2 disability in the State, particularly for residents of the
3 neighbor islands, where geographic isolation and limited access
4 to specialty trauma services may delay timely access to
5 definitive trauma care; and
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7 WHEREAS, severe traumatic injuries, including traumatic
8 brain injuries, are time-sensitive medical emergencies requiring
9 rapid stabilization, evaluation, and access to specialized
10 trauma care to prevent death and long-term disability; and
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12 WHEREAS, timely transfer of severely injured patients to a
13 level I or level II trauma center with specialty surgical
14 capabilities is essential to improving survival, preventing
15 disability, and reducing long-term health care costs; and
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17 WHEREAS, the State has made important progress in
18 strengthening its trauma system through trauma center
19 designation, emergency medical services coordination, and the
20 development of statewide trauma registry infrastructure; and
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22 WHEREAS, Tripler Army Medical Center, has facilitated the
23 State's progress in strengthening its trauma system but does not
24 function as a routine receiving trauma center for civilian
25 trauma transfers within the Hawaii Trauma System; and
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27 WHEREAS, despite its advances in trauma care, the State
28 continues to face trauma system capacity challenges related to
29 geographic isolation, limited specialty trauma resources, and
30 trauma center bed availability, which often results in prolonged



1 transfer times exceeding five hours for critically injured
2 patients before they are able to reach definitive trauma care;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, Tripler Army Medical Center is designated as a
6 level II trauma center and possesses highly trained trauma
7 teams, surgical specialists, and critical care capabilities
8 developed through military trauma training and combat casualty
9 care experience; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State serves as a critical hub for the United
12 States Indo-Pacific Command, which coordinates defense
13 operations and disaster response throughout the Pacific region;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, strengthening military-civilian trauma
17 collaboration in the State would support both civilian trauma
18 care and national medical readiness; and

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20 WHEREAS, collaboration between military and civilian trauma
21 systems has been successfully implemented in other states
22 through initiatives such as the Military-Civilian Partnership
23 for Trauma Readiness, strengthening trauma system capacity while
24 supporting military medical readiness; and

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26 WHEREAS, increased collaboration between Tripler Army
27 Medical Center, the Department of Health, and civilian trauma
28 centers would improve trauma system capacity, reduce delays in
29 accessing definitive trauma care, and enhance disaster and mass
30 casualty preparedness across the State; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Trauma System within the Department of
33 Health has not received a significant increase in dedicated
34 trauma system funding for more than twenty years, despite
35 population growth, rising health care costs, and increasing
36 demands on trauma system infrastructure; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor and the
41 Department of Health are requested to engage with the United
42 States Department of Defense and other federal and military



1 partners to explore establishing a military-civilian trauma
2 partnership to strengthen the Hawaii Trauma System; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 requested to collaborate with Tripler Army Medical Center,
6 emergency medical services providers, and other trauma system
7 stakeholders to identify operational pathways to support
8 integration of military trauma resources into the Hawaii Trauma
9 System; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the Department
12 of Health, through their engagement with the United States
13 Department of Defense, are requested to evaluate the following:

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15 (1) Opportunities for Tripler Army Medical Center to
16 participate as a receiving trauma center for civilian
17 trauma patients within the Hawaii Trauma System;
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19 (2) Opportunities to increase dedicated funding, including
20 funding necessary for uncompensated civilian trauma
21 care when provided by Tripler Army Medical Center as
22 part of the Hawaii Trauma System, to support trauma
23 system coordination, trauma readiness initiatives, and
24 collaboration with military medical partners;
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26 (3) Legislative and regulatory changes that may be
27 necessary to allow Tripler Army Medical Center to
28 receive reimbursement for civilian trauma patients,
29 including Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms similar to
30 those implemented in states such as Texas, that allow
31 military medical facilities to receive reimbursement
32 for civilian trauma care; and
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34 (4) Development of statewide military and civilian tele-
35 trauma consultation capabilities to support rural and
36 community hospitals with trauma assessment,
37 stabilization guidance, and triage decision-making;
38 and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
41 requested to submit a report of its findings and
42 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



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1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2027; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
6 Secretary of Defense, Commander of the United States Indo-
7 Pacific Command, Commander of Tripler Army Medical Center,
8 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, and
9 Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. L. ...", is written over a horizontal line.