



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of (SCR182/SR177)  
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**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 8:45 AM | Room Number: 430

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) is submitting testimony in  
3 support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 182 and Senate Resolution 177, which request the  
4 Governor and the Department to engage with the United States Department of Defense and  
5 other Federal and military partners to explore establishing a military-civilian trauma partnership  
6 to strengthen the Hawaii Trauma System.

7 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch  
8 (EMSIPSB), on behalf of the Department, respectfully submits this testimony in **support** of this  
9 concurrent resolution, which seeks to explore a military-civilian trauma partnership to  
10 strengthen the Hawaii Trauma System.

11 Leveraging the advance capabilities of Triple Army Medical Center’s Level II Trauma Center  
12 alongside civiliam trauma system presents a critical opportunity to expand capacity, reduce  
13 transfer times, and improve patient outcomes. Proven models in other states demonstrate that  
14 these partnerships enchanche both civilian trauma care and military medical readiness.

1 This resolution represents a forward-thinking, collaborative approach to addressing  
2 longstanding system gapes, improving trauma response, and ensuring equitable access to  
3 timely, life-saving care for all residents and visitors of Hawaii.

4 **Offered Amendments: None**

5 Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to trauma care and public health and  
6 safety.

**SCR-182**

Submitted on: 4/22/2026 10:55:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/23/2026 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For all the reasons set forth in this resolution, I **strongly support** this alliance. This is a long time coming. This type of joint venture is a win win!

**Reimbursement** is the clincher. Once that is negotiated or put into a contract, this is a no brainer.

I **strongly support** this because:

1. Tripler Army Medical Center, has facilitated the State's progress in strengthening its trauma system but does not function as a routine receiving trauma center for civilian trauma transfers within the Hawaii Trauma System.
2. It will improve trauma system capacity, reduce delays in accessing definitive trauma care, and enhance disaster and mass casualty preparedness across the State.
3. A military-civilian trauma partnership will strengthen the Hawaii Trauma System.
4. The identification of operational pathways to support integration of military trauma resources into the Hawaii Trauma System.
5. Evaluate:
  - a. Opportunities for Tripler Army Medical Center to participate as a receiving trauma center for civilian trauma patients within the Hawaii Trauma System
  - b. Opportunities to increase dedicated funding, including funding necessary for uncompensated civilian trauma care when provided by Tripler Army Medical Center as part of the Hawaii Trauma System, to support trauma system coordination, trauma readiness initiatives, and collaboration with military medical partners;
  - c. Legislative and regulatory changes that may be necessary to allow Tripler Army Medical Center to receive reimbursement for civilian trauma patients, including Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms similar to those implemented in states such as Texas, that allow military medical facilities to receive reimbursement for civilian trauma care.

d. Development of statewide military and civilian tele-trauma consultation capabilities to support rural and community hospitals with trauma assessment, stabilization guidance, and triage decision-making.