
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 the past thirty-one
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 tertiary hospitals. Located
8 at Wheeler Army Air Field, the aeromedical helicopters provide a
9 vital service at no cost to rural Oahu.

10 However, the legislature also finds that due to the
11 increased military activity in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq,
12 the aeromedical helicopters may soon be deployed to those areas,
13 leaving rural Oahu residents without aeromedical services. The
14 legislature believes that providing intra-island aeromedical
15 services to rural Oahu is necessary for the health and safety of
16 residents and therefore is a matter of statewide concern.

17 It is not the intent of this Act to supplant existing
18 ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or non-



1 emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical
2 helicopter unit would use triage protocols to ensure the
3 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter use
4 would be based on national aeromedical triage and transport
5 guidelines as established by the Association of Air Medical
6 Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National
7 Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

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

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
12 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a grant-in-aid
13 to the director of health to contract with an existing
14 government agency or United States military unit to provide
15 intra-island roto-wing emergency aeromedical services for rural
16 Oahu only:

17 (1) Provided that the emergency aeromedical helicopter
18 services:

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



1 (B) Shall use triage protocols that are based on,
2 national aeromedical, triage, and transport
3 guidelines established by the Association of Air
4 Medical Services, the American College of
5 Surgeons, and the National Association of
6 Emergency Medical Services Physicians;

7 and

8 (2) Provided further that:

9 (A) One additional ground emergency medical services
10 ambulance shall be provided until the specified
11 intra-island roto-wing aeromedical services are
12 secured to ensure maximum emergency transport
13 coverage; and

14 (B) The city and county of Honolulu shall share in
15 the cost to contract with an existing government
16 agency or United States military unit to provide
17 intra-island roto-wing aeromedical services for
18 rural Oahu only.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 health for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

HB 2187
HD2

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.

(HB2187 HD2)

