
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP A TRAUMA SYSTEM
PLAN FOR HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's trauma system consists largely of
2 independently operating components revolving around a single
3 large Level II designated center in Honolulu at the Queen's
4 Medical Center, which provides care for the vast majority of
5 trauma on Oahu, as well as more serious trauma transferred from
6 the Neighbor Islands; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Committee
9 on Trauma performed a study in 2005 at the request of the State
10 Department of Health and issued a report entitled, "Trauma
11 System Consultation, State of Hawaii," which identified the
12 assets and challenges of Hawaii's existing trauma system; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the ACS report emphasized the following assets of
15 the State's trauma system:
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- 17 (1) A mature, statutorily enabled and funded State
18 Emergency Medical Service system;
19
20 (2) A committed, high volume ACS-verified Level II trauma
21 center in Honolulu;
22
23 (3) Growth, development, and individual provider
24 commitment in some areas; and
25
26 (4) Electronic pre-hospital data collection;
27

28 and
29

30 WHEREAS, the ACS report also identified the following
31 challenges:
32

- 33 (1) Extreme geographic isolation with limited access and
34 re-supply capacity;



- 1 (2) Geographic and operational barriers to intra-system
- 2 transport and transfer;
- 3
- 4 (3) Lack of sustained staffing and leadership to sustain
- 5 trauma system development; and
- 6
- 7 (4) Variable physician commitment, recruitment, and
- 8 retention for the provision of trauma care;
- 9

10 and

11
12 WHEREAS, to improve trauma care in Hawaii, the ACS report
13 made the following recommendations:

- 14
- 15 (1) The creation of a comprehensive and inclusive Hawaii
- 16 Trauma System Plan;
- 17
- 18 (2) The inclusion of county authorities in trauma system
- 19 planning to explore partnership with the state lead
- 20 agency for planning and policy development; and
- 21
- 22 (3) The development of a comprehensive funding proposal; a
- 23

24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, trauma care was also the subject of a recent
27 report by Hawaii's Legislative Reference Bureau entitled, "On-
28 Call Crisis in Trauma Care: Government Responses," which
29 focused on the difficulty in securing physician specialists for
30 emergency call; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the Legislative Reference Bureau report identified
33 the following causes of the on-call physician specialist
34 shortage:

- 35
- 36 (1) The cost of care has increased, while payments to
- 37 physicians from health plans, Medicare, and Medicaid
- 38 have dramatically decreased;
- 39
- 40 (2) Many physician specialists have reduced or eliminated
- 41 emergency call in favor of a more predictable
- 42 lifestyle;
- 43



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- 1 (3) There is a national shortage of physician specialists
- 2 in many areas critical for trauma coverage; and
- 3
- 4 (4) Malpractice liability insurance premiums are rising;
- 5
- 6 and
- 7

8 WHEREAS, the emergency call physician crisis must be
 9 addressed in order to ensure the integrity of trauma care in
 10 Hawaii; now, therefore,

11
 12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 13 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 14 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Health is
 15 requested to develop a comprehensive trauma system plan for
 16 Hawaii that encompasses all of the major islands and includes
 17 cost estimates; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health involve
 20 representatives of all relevant agencies and organizations, both
 21 public and private, in the development of the trauma plan; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
 24 requested to submit a trauma plan to the Legislature no later
 25 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 26 of 2007; and

27
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors
 30 of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui, the Director of Health,
 31 the Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of
 32 Hawaii, the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical
 33 Association, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Queen's
 34 Medical Center.

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MAR 10 2006