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# 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



1 non-emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical  
 2 helicopter unit shall use triage protocols to ensure the  
 3 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter use  
 4 shall 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 \$ , or so  
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
 13 the director of health to contract with an existing government  
 14 agency or United States military unit to provide intra-island  
 15 roto-wing emergency aeromedical services for rural Oahu only:

- 16 (1) Provided that the emergency aeromedical helicopter  
 17 services:
  - 18 (A) Shall not supplant existing ground or fixed-wing  
 19 transport, especially for routine or  
 20 non-emergency inter-facility transportation; and
  - 21 (B) Shall use triage protocols that are based on  
 22 national aeromedical, triage, and transport



1 guidelines established by the Association of Air  
2 Medical Services, the American College of  
3 Surgeons, and the National Association of  
4 Emergency Medical Services Physicians; and

5 (2) Provided further that the city and county of Honolulu  
6 shall share equally with the State in the cost to  
7 contract with an existing government agency or United  
8 States military unit to provide intra-island roto-wing  
9 aeromedical services for rural Oahu only; provided  
10 that no moneys shall be made available under this  
11 section unless the city and county of Honolulu  
12 provides \$ for the purpose for which this  
13 sum is appropriated.

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

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

**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.  
(SD2)

