
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 helicopter has served Hawaii for the past thirty-one
4 years. This military aeromedical helicopter has 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 helicopter provides 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 helicopter 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 would utilize triage protocols to ensure the
3 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter
4 utilization would be based on national aeromedical triage and
5 transport guidelines as established by the Association of Air
6 Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the
7 National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

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

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000, or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for a
13 grant-in-aid pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
14 to the director of health to contract with an existing
15 government agency, United States military unit, or a private
16 entity to provide intra-island only roto-wing aeromedical
17 services for rural Oahu; provided that the emergency aeromedical
18 helicopter services:

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



1 (2) Shall use triage protocols that are based on national
2 aeromedical, triage, and transport guidelines
3 established by the Association of Air Medical
4 Services, the American college of Surgeons, and the
5 National Association of Emergency Medical Services
6 Physicians,
7 to be matched by the city and county of Honolulu.

8 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
9 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Aeromedical Helicopter

Description:

Appropriates funds for the department of health to contract with a government agency, U.S. military branch, or private entity to provide intra-island only aeromedical roto-wing services for rural Oahu. Requires matching funds for the City and County of Honolulu. (SD1)

