
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 Part I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States
3 Army's 68th Medical Company's Medical Assistance to Safety and
4 Traffic helicopters have served Hawaii for the past thirty-one
5 years. These military aeromedical helicopters have transported
6 over seven thousand patients and saved countless lives by
7 transporting patients from rural areas, particularly in West
8 Oahu and the North Shore of Oahu to tertiary hospitals. Located
9 at Wheeler Army Air Field, the aeromedical helicopters provide a
10 vital service at no cost to rural Oahu.

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



1 It is not the intent of this Act to supplant existing
2 ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or
3 non-emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical
4 helicopter unit would utilize triage protocols to ensure the
5 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter
6 utilization would be based on national aeromedical triage and
7 transport guidelines as established by the Association of Air
8 Medical Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the
9 National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

10 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to provide
11 intra-island only aeromedical services to rural Oahu.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for a
15 purchase of services pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes, to the director of health to contract with an existing
17 government agency, United States military unit, or a private
18 entity to provide intra-island only roto-wing aeromedical
19 services for rural Oahu; provided that the emergency aeromedical
20 helicopter services:



- 1 (1) Shall not supplant existing ground or fixed-wing
2 transport, especially for routine or non-emergency
3 inter-facility transportation; and
- 4 (2) Shall use triage protocols that are based on national
5 aeromedical, triage, and transport guidelines
6 established by the Association of Air Medical
7 Services, the American college of Surgeons, and the
8 National Association of Emergency Medical Services
9 Physicians;
- 10 provided that the appropriated amount shall be matched by the
11 city and county of Honolulu.

12 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
13 department of health for the purposes of this part.

14 Part II

15 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that the current practice
16 of staffing the aeromedical helicopter on the island of Hawaii
17 by utilizing ground ambulance personnel reduces operational
18 effectiveness and safety by:

- 19 (1) Reducing the number of available ground ambulance
20 units assessed and deemed necessary to effectively
21 serve a given community or geographic area. The
22 current practice of utilizing the South Kohala



1 ambulance unit as the primary coverage unit and
2 Waikoloa as the secondary coverage unit has a direct
3 impact on ambulance service delivery to residents and
4 visitors of those respective communities. Although
5 this same impact may be experienced with daily
6 emergency medical services operations, it would be
7 minimized through the use of a dedicated aeromedical
8 crew;

9 (2) Extending the out-of-service time for the respective
10 ground ambulance units involved in the mission through
11 the staffing of the helicopter;

12 (3) Reducing quality and effective patient care through
13 the use of personnel unfamiliar or less familiar with
14 the equipment and operations of the helicopter unit.
15 This includes, but is not limited to: flight
16 physiology, patient loading and extrication,
17 specialized treatment modalities and practices, space
18 and altitude limitations, and aircraft performance
19 limitations;

20 (4) Utilizing personnel unfamiliar with or less familiar
21 with the equipment and operations of the helicopter
22 unit. This includes, but is not limited to: radio



1 and communications equipment, aircraft lighting,
2 compartment latch and security mechanisms, emergency
3 evacuation and shut-down procedures, flight following,
4 and scene operations and safety;

5 (5) Utilizing personnel uncomfortable with or
6 psychologically and physiologically affected by
7 helicopter flight and operations;

8 (6) Utilizing personnel who may have physical
9 characteristics such as height and weight that limit
10 performance or operations; and

11 (7) Operating with limited availability of personal
12 protective equipment such as flight suits and helmets.

13 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
14 reestablishment of dedicated emergency medical service personnel
15 to staff the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island of
16 Hawaii, which will maximize operational effectiveness and
17 operational safety.

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, as a
21 grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii for dedicated emergency
22 medical service personnel to staff the aeromedical helicopter

1 unit on the island of Hawaii; provided that the appropriated
2 amount shall be matched by the county of Hawaii.

3 SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
4 county of Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

5 Part III

6 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



SB3146,SD2

Report Title:

Emergency Medical Services; Aeromedical Helicopter

Description:

Appropriates funds for DOH 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 county funds. Appropriates \$ to Hawaii county for dedicated emergency medical service personnel to staff the aeromedical helicopter unit. (SD2)

