
SENATE 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
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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
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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;
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20 (2) A committed, high volume ACS-verified Level II trauma
21 center in Honolulu;
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23 (3) Growth, development, and individual provider
24 commitment in some areas; and
25
26 (4) Electronic pre-hospital data collection;
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28 and
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30 WHEREAS, the ACS report also identified the following
31 challenges:
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- 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

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

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- 15 (1) The creation of a comprehensive and inclusive Hawaii
16 Trauma System Plan;
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- 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

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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

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

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- 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



1 (3) There is a national shortage of physician specialists
2 in many areas critical for trauma coverage; and
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4 (4) Malpractice liability insurance premiums are rising;
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6 and
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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,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
15 is 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
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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
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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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ASST

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