
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:
16

- 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

