

Honolulu, Hawaii
Feb 13, 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2526
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 2526
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION AS A GRANT-IN-AID
TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
PERSONNEL TO STAFF THE AEROMEDICAL HELICOPTER UNIT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the
reestablishment of dedicated emergency medical service personnel
to staff the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony from the Mayor of the
county of Hawaii in support of the bill.

Your Committee finds that the current practice of staffing
the aeromedical helicopter on the island of Hawaii by utilizing
"ground ambulance" personnel reduces operational effectiveness and
safety by:

- (1) Reducing the number and effectiveness of available
ground ambulance units;
- (2) Extending the out-of-service time for the respective
ground ambulance units; and
- (3) Reducing the quality of patient care in the aeromedical
helicopter through the use of inexperienced personnel.

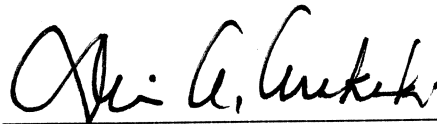


This bill would address these concerns by providing the necessary funds to provide quality healthcare to patients utilizing the aeromedical helicopter unit on the island of Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended the bill by changing the amount appropriated to \$1 for the purpose of furthering discussion on this matter.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2526, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2526, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair



