
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO
BEGIN NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO ESTABLISH A MOBILE
EMERGENCY HOSPITAL UNIT IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has the responsibility of
2 protecting and serving its communities by providing appropriate
3 medical services during an emergency in a timely manner; and
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5 WHEREAS, the significance of this responsibility has been
6 demonstrated repeatedly during Hawaii's hurricane seasons,
7 earthquakes, flash floods, tsunamis, sudden horrific tragedies
8 such as the Sacred Falls landslide, the collision and sinking of
9 the Ehime Maru sea vessel, and evacuations of schools due to
10 hazardous materials conditions; and
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12 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency department and hospital, known
13 as a MED-1 unit, can respond to crisis situations and provide
14 instant on-site medical attention ranging from emergency medical
15 care, surgical trauma, critical care, and anesthesia; and
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17 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit can serve as a "surge hospital,"
18 designed to respond to surges in numbers of patients during
19 emergencies, or as a stand-alone quarantine facility capable of
20 providing 14 general medical beds and expandable to accommodate
21 as many as several hundred patients when a tenting system is in
22 place; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, more than
25 7,000 patients were served by a MED-1 unit set up in a parking
26 lot in Waveland, Mississippi, for seven weeks when the existing
27 local health care infrastructure was destroyed; and



1 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit served as a major trauma center and
2 emergency room in New Orleans during the 2006 Mardi Gras when
3 the existing medical infrastructures were in bad repair; and
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5 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit can also serve as a quarantine
6 facility in the event of a hazardous materials attack, pandemic,
7 avian flu outbreak, or any disaster-related outbreak requiring
8 quarantine; and
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10 WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a medical resource
11 during emergencies and disasters, a MED-1 unit can also provide
12 primary care and necessary healthcare infrastructure to
13 communities lacking medical resources in parts of the islands
14 where needs have already been identified, including Kahuku,
15 Puna, and other areas; and
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17 WHEREAS, as a mobile emergency department and hospital on
18 wheels, a MED-1 unit can be transported to various sites and may
19 also be airlifted between islands via military transport
20 airplanes; and
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22 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit provides a mobile support trailer
23 stocked with essential medical supplies and equipment, as well
24 as living and sleeping quarters for a team of healthcare
25 providers that can travel with the unit; and
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27 WHEREAS, Hawaii's isolation as a chain of islands requires
28 sufficient and immediate emergency medical response from within
29 the state until support from the mainland or elsewhere arrives;
30 and
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32 WHEREAS, a MED-1 unit would afford the people of Hawaii
33 immediate access to medical resources during a natural or man-
34 made disaster; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
38 Session of 2007, that the Civil Defense Division of the
39 Department of Defense (Civil Defense), in cooperation with the
40 Department of Health (DOH), is requested to begin necessary
41 preparations to establish a mobile emergency hospital MED-1 unit



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1 in Hawaii as a shared resource between Civil Defense and DOH,
2 based on the known need for a comprehensive natural and man-made
3 disaster response plan; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Civil
7 Defense, and Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: _____

John M. [Signature]
John M. [Signature]
MAR 14 2007

