
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
4

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
11

12 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit can respond to
13 crisis situations and provide instant on-site medical attention
14 ranging from emergency medical care, surgical trauma, critical
15 care, and anesthesia; and
16

17 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit can serve as a
18 "surge hospital," designed to respond to surges in numbers of
19 patients during emergencies, or as a stand-alone quarantine
20 facility capable of providing 14 general medical beds and
21 expandable to accommodate as many as several hundred patients
22 when a tenting system is in place; and
23

24 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, more than
25 7,000 patients were served by a mobile emergency hospital unit
26 set up in a parking lot in Waveland, Mississippi, for seven
27 weeks when the existing local health care infrastructure was
28 destroyed; and
29

30 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit served as a major
31 trauma center and emergency room in New Orleans during the 2006
32 Mardi Gras when the existing medical infrastructure was in bad
33 repair; and



1
2 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit can also serve as
3 a quarantine facility in the event of a hazardous materials
4 attack, pandemic, avian flu outbreak, or any disaster-related
5 outbreak requiring quarantine; and
6

7 WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a medical resource
8 during emergencies and disasters, a mobile emergency hospital
9 unit can also provide primary care and necessary healthcare
10 infrastructure to communities lacking medical resources in parts
11 of the islands where needs have already been identified,
12 including Kahuku, Puna, and other areas; and
13

14 WHEREAS, as a mobile emergency department and hospital on
15 wheels, such a unit should also be able to be transported to
16 various sites and may also be airlifted between islands via
17 military transport airplanes; and
18

19 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit could provide a
20 mobile support trailer stocked with essential medical supplies
21 and equipment, as well as living and sleeping quarters for a
22 team of healthcare providers that can travel with the unit; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's isolation as a chain of islands requires
25 sufficient and immediate emergency medical response from within
26 the state until support from the mainland or elsewhere arrives;
27 and
28

29 WHEREAS, a mobile emergency hospital unit would afford the
30 people of Hawaii immediate access to medical resources during a
31 natural or man-made disaster; now, therefore,
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2007, that the Civil Defense Division of the
36 Department of Defense (Civil Defense), in cooperation with the
37 Department of Health (DOH), is requested to begin necessary
38 preparations to establish a mobile emergency hospital mobile
39 emergency hospital unit in Hawaii as a shared resource between
40 Civil Defense and DOH, based on the known need for a
41 comprehensive natural and man-made disaster response plan; and
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Civil Defense, in cooperation
2 with DOH, is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
3 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
4 of 2008, on the cost and logistics of providing a mobile
5 emergency hospital unit for the State of Hawaii, including any
6 recommendations and implementing legislation; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Defense is
9 requested to provide a report to the Legislature no later than
10 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008,
11 with information regarding the possible role the Emergency
12 Management Assistance Compact, a congressionally ratified
13 organization that provides form and structure to interstate
14 mutual aid, could play in assisting Hawaii in times of
15 emergency; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Civil
19 Defense, Director of Health, and Adjutant General.

