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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A STATE TRAUMA  
SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, trauma care is a public health priority yet trauma  
2 care in Hawaii is in a state of crisis; and  
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4 WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death for persons  
5 between the ages of one to forty-four in the State of Hawaii,  
6 causing more deaths than are caused by cancer and heart disease  
7 combined; and  
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9 WHEREAS, when injuries are serious, specialized equipment  
10 and prompt access to physicians and other trained health care  
11 providers make a significant difference in a trauma patient's  
12 health outcome; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the rates of unintentional injury on the neighbor  
15 islands were more than double those for the City and County of  
16 Honolulu across most categories, suggesting an association  
17 between delayed access to organized, definitive trauma care and  
18 risk of death in areas outside of Oahu; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, this underscores the seriousness of traumatic  
21 injury as a public health problem statewide; and  
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23 WHEREAS, a weak trauma system decreases the state's  
24 readiness to respond not only to the normal flow of critically  
25 injured patients, but to unforeseen disasters and emergencies as  
26 well; and  
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28 WHEREAS, as the American College of Surgeons (ACS) noted in  
29 its October 2005 report, " Trauma System Consultation, State of  
30 Hawaii" extreme isolation and limited physician re-supply  
31 capability renders Hawaii uniquely vulnerable to natural  
32 disasters that may occur in a mid-Pacific environment; and



1 WHEREAS, a functional trauma system with the capacity to  
2 handle a surge in demand is a fundamental necessity in  
3 responding to both natural and man-made disasters; now,  
4 therefore,

5  
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2007, that the Department of Health (DOH) is  
9 requested to begin the necessary preparations to establish a  
10 State Trauma System (System) based on recommendations provided  
11 in the October 2005 report by the ACS entitled "Trauma System  
12 Consultation State of Hawaii"; and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the establishment of the System  
15 should include the:

- 16  
17 (1) Appointing and convening of a State Trauma Advisory  
18 Committee (STAC), charged with the development of a  
19 comprehensive, system-wide trauma performance  
20 improvement (PI) plan under the guidance of the  
21 Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention  
22 System Branch of DOH;  
23  
24 (2) Development of a system-wide trauma PI plan, including  
25 indicators relevant to the specific problems faced by  
26 the state of Hawaii (e.g. time-to-definitive care;  
27  
28 (3) Development and use of a statewide trauma registry to  
29 identify PI problems within the state, to target  
30 potential solutions, and provide "loop closure" for  
31 specific system-wide PI interventions;  
32  
33 (4) Establishment of County Trauma Audit Committees for  
34 the counties of Hawaii, Maui, Honolulu, and Kauai that  
35 meet at least quarterly to address system issues and  
36 to coordinate PI plans;  
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38 (5) Development of a process to provide more comprehensive  
39 outreach based on specific clinical issues identified  
40 by the trauma registry, for neighbor island and Oahu  
41 trauma receiving hospitals;  
42  
43 (6) Upgrade, verification, and designation of Queen's  
44 Medical Center (Queen's) as a Level I Trauma Center;



- (7) Development of Maui Memorial Medical Center as a designated and verified Level III trauma center with a plan to evolve into a Level II facility within the next five to ten years;
- (8) Development of at least one Level III trauma center on each of the islands of Hawaii and Kauai; and
- (9) Incorporation of existing medical expertise at Queen's as the lead trauma center to provide medical leadership for trauma system PI;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, and Chief Executive Officer of the Queen's Medical Center.

OFFERED BY: *John M. ...*  
*John M. ...*  
MAR 13 2007

