

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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  
16

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,  
35

36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
38 that the Civil Defense Division of the Department of Defense  
39 (Civil Defense), in cooperation with the Department of Health  
40 (DOH), is requested to begin necessary preparations to establish  
41 a mobile emergency hospital MED-1 unit in Hawaii as a shared



1 resource between Civil Defense and DOH, based on the known need  
2 for a comprehensive natural and man-made disaster response plan;  
3 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:

Anil Yde

