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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. 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. The  
4 significance of this responsibility has been demonstrated  
5 repeatedly during Hawaii's hurricane seasons, earthquakes, flash  
6 floods, tsunamis, sudden horrific tragedies such as the Sacred  
7 Falls landslide, the collision and sinking of the Ehime Maru sea  
8 vessel, and evacuations of schools due to hazardous materials  
9 conditions.

10           A mobile emergency hospital unit can respond to crisis  
11 situations and provide instant on-site medical attention ranging  
12 from emergency medical care, surgical trauma, critical care, and  
13 anesthesia. A mobile emergency hospital unit can serve as a  
14 "surge hospital", designed to respond to surges in numbers of  
15 patients during emergencies, or as a stand-alone quarantine  
16 facility capable of providing 14 general medical beds,  
17 expandable to accommodate as many as several hundred patients  
18 when a tenting system is in place. In the aftermath of



1 Hurricane Katrina, more than 7,000 patients were served by a  
2 mobile emergency hospital unit set up in a parking lot in  
3 Waveland, Mississippi, for seven weeks when the existing local  
4 health care infrastructure was destroyed.

5 A mobile emergency hospital unit can also serve as a  
6 quarantine facility in the event of a hazardous materials  
7 attack, pandemic, avian flu outbreak, or any disaster-related  
8 outbreak requiring quarantine. In addition to serving as a  
9 medical resource during emergencies and disasters, a mobile  
10 emergency hospital unit can also provide primary care and  
11 necessary healthcare infrastructure to communities lacking  
12 medical resources in parts of the islands where current needs  
13 have already been identified, including Kahuku, Puna, and other  
14 areas.

15 As a mobile emergency department and hospital on wheels,  
16 such a unit would also be able to be transported to various  
17 sites and could also be airlifted between islands via military  
18 transport airplanes. A mobile emergency hospital unit could  
19 provide a mobile support trailer stocked with essential medical  
20 supplies and equipment, as well as living and sleeping quarters  
21 for a team of health care providers who can travel with the  
22 unit. Hawaii's isolation requires sufficient and immediate



1 emergency medical response from within the state until support  
2 from the mainland or elsewhere arrives. A mobile emergency  
3 hospital unit would afford the people of Hawaii immediate access  
4 to medical resources during a natural or man-made disaster.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
6 department of defense to begin necessary preparations to  
7 establish a mobile emergency hospital unit in Hawaii in  
8 cooperation with the department of health as a shared resource  
9 between the department of defense and the department of health,  
10 based on the known need for a comprehensive natural and man-made  
11 disaster response plan.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
15 the department of defense to begin necessary preparations to  
16 establish a mobile emergency hospital unit in Hawaii in  
17 cooperation with the department of health as a shared resource  
18 between the department of defense and the department of health,  
19 based on the known need for a comprehensive natural and man-made  
20 disaster response plan.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
22 defense for the purposes of this Act.



# H.B. NO. 3387

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Josh Green M.D.

JAN 23 2008



**Report Title:**

Mobile Emergency Hospital Unit

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Department of Defense in cooperation with the Department of Health to begin necessary preparations to establish a mobile emergency hospital unit in Hawaii as a shared resource between the Department of Defense and the Department of Health, based on the known need for a comprehensive natural and man-made disaster response plan.

