
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 has the responsibility of protecting
2 and serving its communities by providing appropriate medical
3 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,
12 including emergency medical care, surgical trauma, critical
13 care, and anesthesia. A mobile emergency hospital unit can
14 serve as a "surge hospital", designed to respond to surges in
15 numbers of patients during emergencies, or as a stand-alone
16 quarantine facility capable of providing 14 general medical
17 beds, expandable to accommodate as many as several hundred
18 patients 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 health care 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 can be transported to various sites and airlifted
17 between islands via military transport airplanes. A mobile
18 emergency hospital unit can provide a mobile support trailer
19 stocked with essential medical supplies and equipment, as well
20 as living and sleeping quarters for a team of health care
21 providers who can travel with the unit. Hawaii's isolation
22 requires sufficient and immediate emergency medical response



1 from within the state until support from the mainland or
2 elsewhere arrives. A mobile emergency hospital unit would
3 afford the people of Hawaii immediate access to medical
4 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.

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

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



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 as a shared resource between the Department of Defense and the Department of Health, based on the need for a comprehensive natural and man-made disaster response plan. (HB3387 HD1)

