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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN  
ELECTROCARDIOGRAM WIRELESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT TASK FORCE.

1           WHEREAS, time is of the essence for heart attack victims  
2 because irreversible or potentially fatal damage to the heart  
3 can occur quickly; and  
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5           WHEREAS, an estimated 1,200,000 individuals experience  
6 heart attacks annually, resulting in 495,000 deaths; and  
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8           WHEREAS, studies have shown that when a heart attack is  
9 caused by a blood clot that blocks a victim's artery, clearing  
10 the vessel within 90 minutes reduces the risk of death by 40  
11 percent; and  
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13           WHEREAS, hospitals in North Carolina and Arkansas have  
14 taken steps to shorten these deadly delays by having paramedics  
15 wirelessly transmit patients' electrocardiogram (EKG) data from  
16 the field, or from ambulances, either directly to cardiologist  
17 staff or to staff in waiting emergency rooms; and  
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19           WHEREAS, under the wireless transmission system, paramedics  
20 in the field who detect signs of a heart attack transmit  
21 electrocardiogram readings by a wireless modem to a cardiologist  
22 or an emergency room; and  
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24           WHEREAS, this procedure can help the cardiologist or  
25 emergency room staff mobilize the appropriate staff and  
26 equipment prior to the victim's arrival at the emergency room;  
27 and  
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29           WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services  
30 Department (EMS) is currently developing a project that equips  
31 ambulances and rapid response vehicles with such a wireless



1 transmission system to transmit EKG data to any hospital wishing  
2 to participate in the project; and

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4 WHEREAS, EMS's EKG wireless transmission system project  
5 should be closely studied to determine if it would be  
6 advantageous to implement a similar project statewide; now,  
7 therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, the Senate  
11 concurring, that the Department of Health (DOH) is requested to  
12 establish an Electrocardiogram Wireless Transmission Project  
13 Task Force (Task Force) to track and study the progress of EMS's  
14 EKG wireless transmission system project (Project); and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the Task Force  
17 should be to review EMS's Project and data on costs,  
18 implementation, required staff, and other information currently  
19 gathered by EMS to evaluate the Project's potential for  
20 expansion and improvement; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
23 review the Project's EKG wireless transmission system, wireless  
24 modem to a cardiologist, and the overall benefit in reducing the  
25 time elapsed for each patient from arrival at the hospital to  
26 receiving appropriate treatment for conditions diagnosed using  
27 the EKG wireless transmission system; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Task Force  
30 should be as follows:

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32 (1) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
33 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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35 (2) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
36 the Senate;

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38 (3) The Director of EMS or the Director's designee;

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40 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;

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42 (5) A board certified emergency room physician appointed  
43 jointly by the Senate President and the Speaker of the  
44 House of Representatives;



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2 (6) The Chairperson of the Board of the American Heart  
3 Association of Hawaii or the Chairperson's designee;

4  
5 and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
8 convene at least three meetings at the Hawaii State Capitol  
9 prior to the 2009 Regular Session; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
12 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
13 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days  
14 prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall cease to  
17 exist on June 30, 2009; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
21 of Health, Director of the Honolulu's Emergency Medical Services  
22 Department, and Chairperson of the Board of the American Heart  
23 Association of Hawaii.

