

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 3387  
A BILL RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 1, 2008

Chair Green and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am testifying on House Bill 3387 which appropriates funds to establish a mobile emergency hospital unit in Hawaii.

We appreciate the intent of the proposed bill which seeks to provide for an additional medical capability within the State. However, we are concerned about the cost implications of this initiative. The establishment of a mobile emergency hospital unit is not in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

There are currently several Acute Care Modules pre-positioned around the State which may fulfill the capability House Bill 3387 proposes. Pre-positioned systems exist on Kauai (20-bed), two each on Maui and Hawaii (20-bed) and one 50-bed configuration on Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

000183



## **HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**

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*"Touching Lives Every Day"*

### **The House of Representatives**

#### **Committee on Health**

**Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair**

**Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair**

#### **Committee on Human Services & Housing**

**Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair**

**Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

February 1, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting HB 3387 Relating to Disaster Preparedness**  
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

Thomas Driskill, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of HB 3387, which appropriates fund to the Department of Defense to begin necessary preparations to establish a mobile emergency hospital unit in Hawaii in cooperation with the Department of Health as a shared resource.

Recent natural disasters and tragedies and potential threats on the mainland and in Hawaii underscore the need for preparedness to protect and serve our communities with appropriate medical services during emergencies in a timely manner.

HHSC recognizes the need to prepare for future natural or man-made disaster situations that would threaten the health and safety of Hawaii's residents and visitors and support this measure related to coordinated efforts of the Department of Defense and Department of Health in advancing disaster preparedness. Thank you.

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000184