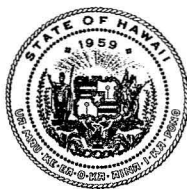


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

HB 3387, RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

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

1 **Department's Position:** The Department appreciates the intent of this measure but cannot support an
2 appropriation outside of the Executive Supplemental Budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for purchase of mobile emergency
4 hospital units.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Among the considerable improvements that the Department of
6 Health, Department of Defense, and the Healthcare Association of Hawaii have made in emergency
7 preparedness has been the evaluation of alternatives to existing hospital capacity.

8 One such alternative is the "mobile hospital unit". These units offer free-standing, self-contained
9 surge capacity for surgical and medical care that can be pre-positioned or moved to support the need for
10 increased care during emergencies and can be augmented to support up to 200 patients. These units can
11 also be used for day-to-day primary and specialty medical care in areas where clinic space is
12 insufficient. Thus, "mobile hospital units" offer a flexible, scalable, mobile and yet durable alternative
13 to either fixed structures on the one hand, and the tent-based assets on the other. Deployment and
14 utilization of these units would require additionally budgeted operating funds.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.