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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
THE FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AMBULANCE DISPATCH CENTER  
ON THE WEST SIDE OF KAUAI, BASED IN KALAHEO.

1           WHEREAS, the protection and preservation of the health of  
2 Hawaii's people is a matter of compelling state interest; and

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4           WHEREAS, emergency ambulance services, available twenty-  
5 four-hours a day, can help reduce medical emergency deaths,  
6 injuries, and permanent long-term disability and are a key  
7 component of the State's comprehensive emergency medical  
8 services system; and

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10          WHEREAS, a timely response and immediate transport to an  
11 acute care treatment facility is key to preventing irreversible  
12 damage; and

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14          WHEREAS, the Island of Kauai has five ambulance units that  
15 are located in:

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17           (1) Princeville, serving from north of Anahola and the  
18           entire north shore;
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20           (2) Kapaa, serving just north of Anahola until north of  
21           the Wailua Golf course;
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23           (3) Lihue, serving from north of Wailua Golf course to  
24           Halfway Bridge;
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26           (4) Koloa, serving from Halfway Bridge to Brydswood; and
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28           (5) Waimea, serving Brydswood and the entire west side of  
29           Kauai;

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31 and



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WHEREAS, while the five units have worked out a "back-up" coverage plan that has adequately served the island, it has created hardships to emergency medical services personnel and the public; and

WHEREAS, more needs to be done in the face of Kauai's population growth, such as:

- (1) Ensuring back-up coverage from sites such as those in Kalaheo when Waimea or Poipu ambulance units are unavailable; and
- (2) Supporting medical infrastructure and emergency resources available at Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital;

and

WHEREAS, although the recent recession has slowed the future planned development for Kauai, the population on the west side of Kauai is projected to increase dramatically and a large number of residents are elderly persons, which increases the need for immediate emergency care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to conduct a feasibility study of the future implementation of an ambulance dispatch center on the west side of Kauai, based in Kalaheo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, and Mayor of Kauai.

OFFERED BY:

*ANDREW II*  
*James Lamm*  
*Numia Thoit*

