HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW AVAILABLE SURPLUS
HELICOPTERS TO BE USED FOR MEDICAL EVACUATION SERVICES.

1   WHEREAS, providing emergency medical services (EMS) is a
2   critical component of the state's health care umbrella; and
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4   WHEREAS, certain areas in the state, such as rural areas
5   and areas that are geographically isolated, may lack sufficient
6   access to rapid response EMS, thereby endangering the health and
7   safety of the people residing in these areas; and
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9   WHEREAS, the Legislature has acknowledged the severity of
10 this problem, taking significant steps in 2007 and 2008 to shore
11 up support for EMS; and
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13 WHEREAS, in the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the
14 Legislature provided over $7,000,000 in funding for various
15 emergency medical needs, including the purchase of ambulances,
16 helicopters, and other aeromedical transportation services; and
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18 WHEREAS, notwithstanding these measures, the need for
19 additional emergency response measures still exists; and
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21 WHEREAS, the state Department of Defense maintains a fleet
22 of helicopters for its use; and
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24 WHEREAS, these helicopters, at various points in time, are
25 left idle and may be made available for other missions; and
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27 WHEREAS, these surplus helicopters, due to their speed and
28 unique airborne capabilities, have the potential to provide
29 faster medical evacuations in certain situations, such as
30 hostile terrain or during peak traffic, when compared to other
31 forms of medical evacuation, and thus may serve to bridge
32 existing gaps in EMS coverage; now, therefore,
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H.R. NO. 34

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2009, that the state Department of Defense is requested to
4 allow available surplus helicopters to be used for medical
5 evacuation services; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and the
9 Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: _____

JAN 2 7 2009