

JAN 23 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States  
2 Army's 68th Medical Company's Medical Assistance to Safety and  
3 Traffic helicopters have served Hawaii for more than thirty  
4 years. These military aeromedical helicopters have transported  
5 over seven thousand patients and saved countless lives by  
6 transporting patients from rural areas, particularly in West  
7 Oahu and the North Shore of Oahu to hospitals located in  
8 Honolulu. However, due to the increased military activity  
9 particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq, the aeromedical  
10 helicopters of Hawaii's Army national guard helicopter unit have  
11 been subject to deployment.

12           The legislature recognizes that the free medevac services  
13 provided by the active Army and Hawaii Army national guard  
14 helicopter units are not guaranteed, and the result could be  
15 that rural Oahu residents may be left without aeromedical  
16 services.

17           The aeromedical helicopters have provided a vital service  
18 at no cost to rural Oahu. The legislature believes that



1 providing intra-island aeromedical services to rural Oahu is  
2 necessary for the health and safety of residents and therefore  
3 is a matter of statewide concern.

4 It is not the intent of this Act to supplant existing  
5 ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or non-  
6 emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical  
7 helicopter unit shall use triage protocols to ensure the  
8 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter use  
9 shall be based on national aeromedical triage and transport  
10 guidelines as established by the Association of Air Medical  
11 Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National  
12 Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to provide  
14 intra-island emergency aeromedical services to rural Oahu only.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010, and  
18 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
19 year 2010-2011, for the director of health to contract with an  
20 existing government agency or United States military unit to  
21 provide intra-island roto-wing emergency aeromedical services  
22 for rural Oahu only:



1 (1) Provided that the emergency aeromedical helicopter  
2 services:

3 (A) Shall not supplant existing ground or fixed-wing  
4 transport, especially for routine or  
5 non-emergency inter-facility transportation; and

6 (B) Shall use triage protocols that are based on  
7 national aeromedical, triage, and transport  
8 guidelines established by the Association of Air  
9 Medical Services, the American College of  
10 Surgeons, and the National Association of  
11 Emergency Medical Services Physicians; and

12 (2) Provided further that the city and county of Honolulu  
13 shall share equally with the State in the cost to  
14 contract with an existing government agency or United  
15 States military unit to provide intra-island roto-wing  
16 aeromedical services for rural Oahu only; provided  
17 that no moneys shall be made available under this Act  
18 unless the city and county of Honolulu provides  
19 § for the purpose for which the sums are  
20 appropriated.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
22 of health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Will Eyo  
Russell



**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services; Aeromedical Helicopter

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to department of health to contract with a government agency or U.S. military branch to provide intra-island roto-wing aeromedical services for rural Oahu.

