

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56  
URGING THE HAWAII ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY  
TRANSPORT SERVICES BY HELICOPTER TO INDIVIDUALS FROM LEEWARD  
OAHU AND COMMUNITIES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY WHO REQUIRE  
IMMEDIATE TRAUMA CARE

PRESENTATION TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

MARCH 30, 2012

Chair Yamane, Chair Aquino, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Darryll Wong, Adjutant General, State Department of Defense. I am providing written comments on House Concurrent Resolution 56 which urges the Hawaii Army National Guard to provide emergency helicopter transport services for Leeward, Oahu and communities in the immediate vicinity.

We truly understand the lack of immediate emergency medical services available to the residents of Leeward Oahu and the Ewa plains caused by the closure of the Hawaii Medical Center-West and support the intent of this resolution.

It should be known that the Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG) does not have any helicopters that is configured as an air ambulance and do not have any of the emergency medical/life saving equipment within the unit. Our helicopters are configured to carry soldiers and cargo in support of contingency operations. However, we may provide aero-medical transportation in a non-MEDEVAC configured aircraft to civilian personnel when there is an emergency involving a threat to life, limb, or sight, and when suitable commercial services are not available.

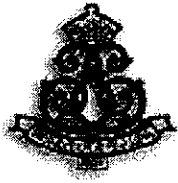
In 2006, HIARNG provided aero-medical transportation service on a reimbursable basis for approximately nine months, immediately after the U. S. Department of Defense terminated its Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST) support in Hawaii, while the U. S Army explored the possibility of a commercial contract. Today, the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii has a commercial MEDEVAC contract service in place for Schofield Barracks and the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island.

This aero-medical transportation service provided by HIARNG cost approximately \$788,000. The cost included State active duty for flight crews and flight operations personnel for 24/7 coverage and flight hour costs which is \$3,500 per flight hour. Additional costs included per diem and temporary duty, since this aviation unit is stationed in Hilo, Hawaii.

Currently, HIARNG will not be able to provide any emergency helicopter transportation service since our UH-60 Aviation unit is deployed to support operations in Southwest Asia and won't be back until late this summer.

Since we won't have the ability to provide this air transportation service until the unit returns, I would like to suggest that agencies providing emergency medical services conduct an assessment to find the best solution to solve this emergency medical situation for Leeward Oahu and the Ewa plain. We may find that the most cost effective means to provide this support is to contract with a commercial vendor that has a helicopter already configured as an air ambulance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this resolution.



# THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

March 30, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**Regarding HCR 56/HR36, Urging the Hawaii Army National Guard to Provide Emergency Transport Services By Helicopter to Individuals from Leeward Oahu and Communities in the Immediate Vicinity Who Require Immediate Trauma Care**

Chair Yamane, Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President of Nursing, ED, Trauma, CNO, of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying on HCR 56/HR36. **QHS strongly supports this resolution.**

Two nights ago, on March 28<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 10:15 at night, a mother and her four young children were plowed over as they waited at a bus stop. A three year old boy died, at the site of the crash. The mother and her three other children were rushed, via an ambulance, to Queens Medical Center. One of those children is in critical condition.

In critical accidents, time is absolutely of the essence. If appropriate medical attention can be delivered within the first hour of an accident, sometimes referred to as 'the golden hour', the chances of survival increase dramatically. This accident occurred late at night, when traffic on the H-1 is generally light. I ask you all to think how long it would have taken had this occurred at 4pm on any day of the week.

With the closure of the Hawaii Medical Center, the utilization of QMC has only deepened. QMC will always be committed to provide superior patient care to all the people of Hawaii. We would welcome and would appreciate the consideration of the Hawaii Army National Guard to partner with us, and reinstate helicopter transport services. Together, we can help save more lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

# IRONWORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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March 27, 2012

Ryan Yamane, Chair, Committee on Health  
Henry Aquino, Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

DATE: March 30, 2012  
TIME: 10:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane and Chair Aquino and Members of the Committees on Health and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

Re: Strong Support for HCR56/HR36

We are in strong support of HCR56/HR36, urging the Hawaii Army National Guard to provide emergency transport services by helicopter to individuals from Leeward Oahu and communities in the immediate vicinity who require immediate trauma care.

The purpose of these resolutions is to assist individuals and families who will need emergency services immediately. Prior to Dessert Storm and the war in the Middle East, there was a medivac system operated by the U.S. Army and/or National Guard. The service was proven to be invaluable in saving lives. It also provided valuable training to our men in the military who were on these life-saving missions. Since the closure of HMC West, there has been a constant strain on all emergency services on Oahu. As such, there medivac operations are needed more than ever.

Again we strongly support this measure for the working men and women of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.