
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, providing emergency medical services is a critical
2 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 emergency medical services, thereby
7 endangering the health and safety of the people residing in
8 these areas; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature has acknowledged the severity of
11 this problem, taking significant steps in 2007 and 2008 to shore
12 up support for emergency medical services; and
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14 WHEREAS, in the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the
15 Legislature provided over \$7,000,000 in funding for various
16 emergency medical needs, including the purchase of ambulances,
17 helicopters, and other aeromedical transportation services; and
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19 WHEREAS, notwithstanding these measures, the need for
20 additional emergency response measures still exists; and
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22 WHEREAS, the state Department of Defense maintains a fleet
23 of helicopters for its use; and
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25 WHEREAS, these helicopters, at various points in time, are
26 left idle and may be made available for other missions; and
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28 WHEREAS, these helicopters, due to their speed and unique
29 airborne capabilities, have the potential to provide faster
30 medical evacuations in certain situations, such as hostile
31 terrain or during peak traffic, when compared to other forms of

1 medical evacuation, and thus may serve to bridge existing gaps
2 in emergency medical services coverage; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the state Department of
7 Defense is requested to allow available helicopters to be used
8 for medical evacuation services; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and
12 the Director of Health.