



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEDIA RELEASE

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Maui to Receive Funding for Ma'alaea-Based Special Emergency Response Vehicle Unit

Wailea, Maui- Governor Neil Abercrombie today signed into law a measure to establish a Emergency Medical Services Special Response Vehicle (SRV) in Ma'alaea, Maui.

[Senate Bill 498](#), relating to emergency medical services, appropriates \$600,000 in FY 2013-2014 to create a twenty-four-hour, seven days-a-week, SRV unit based in Ma'alaea, Maui.

"The establishment of an SRV unit based in Ma'alaea will have a significant impact on the lives of our Maui residents, improving response times and health outcomes," said Senator Roz Baker, who represents Senate District 6, encompassing south and west Maui. "Equipped with all the appropriate life-saving, emergency response equipment and staffed by advanced life support trained paramedics, this vehicle will allow faster response times when resident ambulances are out of the district or called to remote areas. This unit is vital to stabilizing patients in the initial stage of injury, illness or cardiac arrest and will ultimately save lives in south and west Maui."

"The addition of this rapid response vehicle in Ma'alaea will expand EMS and benefit more than just this community," said Speedy Bailey, General Manager for American Medical Response Hawaii.

"This specialized paramedic unit will provide rapid, cutting-edge advanced life support and medical incident command for Ma'alaea and the surrounding areas," said David Kingdon, Paramedic with Maui County EMS and Instructor with the University of Hawaii. "The addition of this important EMS resource will greatly enhance our ability to adapt to the growing and changing needs of our community."

Population growth in west and south Maui has increased significantly over the years, corresponding with a steady increase of approximately 1,000 emergency medical services-related phone calls per year. The population growth, in concert with increases in call volume, has impacted the timely response capabilities of the two ambulances that serve residents in these districts, especially if emergency medical services must respond from an "out-of-district" location. The new Ma'alaea-based SRV unit will support the two ambulances already servicing Maui, helping to reduce death and disability among residents and visitors on the island.

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