

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

### House Committee on Health

## HB 2382 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE HAIKU REGION OF MAUI

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

February 13, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this measure but must  
2 respectfully oppose any impact on the Administration's priorities as established in the Executive  
3 Supplemental Budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$1 of funding for FY2009 for additional 911  
5 ambulance units to be located in the Haiku region of Maui. The cost of an additional 24 hour advanced  
6 life support ambulance unit for Haiku would be close to one million dollars.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department appreciates the desire of communities to reduce the  
8 waiting times for advanced life support ambulance arrival after a 911 call, which in rural communities  
9 such as Haiku may seem excessive.

10 The Department's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch recently  
11 implemented the Hawaii Emergency Medical Services Information System (HEMSIS) that allows  
12 examination of data that is fairly current. Records were analyzed to assess response times for advanced  
13 life support ambulances to the Haiku region of Maui in the year 2007. During this period, for the Haiku  
14 area, there were 497 ambulance responses to 911 calls from that area of which 187 were categorized as  
15 serious or critical. The median response time from 911 dispatches to ambulance arrival was 14.4

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1 minutes. The Makawao ambulance unit handled 83% of the calls from that area, with the Kula  
2 ambulance unit responding to 12% and a few responses by other units. The Makawao ambulance unit  
3 averages approximately 144 cases per month with approximately one fourth of its calls from the Haiku  
4 area. Should a new unit be added at Haiku, it would experience approximately 38 cases per month. The  
5 Department finds that ambulance response times for serious cases in the Haiku region meet our target of  
6 response within 15 minutes or less for rural areas of the state.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**May Mizuno**

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**From:** Cllahm@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 4:14 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2382 and HB 2789

\*I faxed this letter to: 1-800-535-3859, but was informed that these occasionally are misplaced, so I wanted to assure my testimony is admitted by sending to you by email also. If this duplicates my testimony, I apologize.

To Whom It May Concern:

February 9, 2008

This is a letter in support of HB 2382 to put a new ambulance in the Haiku area and HB 2789, which includes a second ambulance on the island of Molokai. I am the team leader of the Kula station on Maui. You wonder how this may affect me? Well, every time the Makawao ambulance responds on a call, my unit is relocated to Makawao's area. This takes us away from the area we were designed to protect, as well as the helicopter, for which we are the primary crew. Frequently we respond on calls in Haiku, as well, when the Makawao ambulance is already on a call. This leaves the entire upcountry area waiting 30 minutes for an ambulance to respond from the central area.

My family lives in the Kula area as well as the families I am dedicated to care for. This new ambulance will give them the ambulance coverage they deserve and were designed to have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Candace Lahm, MICT

Kula Operations Team Leader-AMR

Chief Flight Medic-Maui Medevac

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2/11/2008