

# HB 317 HD1

**Measure Title:**

RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE.

**Report Title:**

Mobile Medical Van; Vog Health Care

**Description:**

Authorizes the use of federal Homeland Security Grant Program funds to provide the people of the southern portion of the island of Hawaii with increased access to suitable emergency and clinical medical care. Effective 07/01/2020. (HB317 HD1)

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**

**HB 317, HD1, RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE**

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

**Thursday, March 19 2009; 1:00 p.m.**

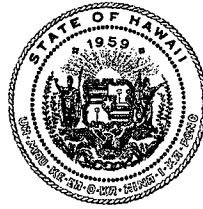
1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure to appropriate federal funds  
2 from the Homeland Security Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile medical van to be based at  
3 Kona Community Hospital.

4 **Financial Impact:** Appropriates up to \$500,000 in Federal Homeland Security Grant funds.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department appreciates that there are significant barriers in accessing  
6 medical services in rural areas such as the southern area of Hawaii County. Mobile medical vans are  
7 one strategy that could be used to address some of these barriers. However, we are concerned that this  
8 measure appropriates funds for the medical van, but no funds to provide medical professionals to staff  
9 the vans. The cost of staffing would be considerable and is not addressed. In addition, we note that  
10 Homeland Security Grant funding allocations are decided through a grant application process set forth  
11 by the Federal government with the Department of Defense as the lead agency for the State.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
HEALTH  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 317, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE**

House Bill 317, House Draft 1 proposes that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) receive federal Homeland Security Grant Program funds to provide the people of the southern portion of the Island of Hawaii, who have been heavily impacted by vog, with increased access to suitable emergency and clinical medical care. The Department does not support SECTIONS 3 and 4 of this measure as presently written, and defers comments on public emergency medical care matters in this bill to the Department of Health (DOH).

This bill authorizes the Department to expend federal Homeland Security Grant Program funds in coordination with DOH to provide for a mobile emergency and clinical medical care program for Hawaii County's Kona community. The Department does not receive any funds for public health, emergency and clinical medical care and it is unlikely that we would qualify to receive public health funds for any purpose. And as natural, cultural, and historic resources managers, the Department feels that it may not be the appropriate agency to request, and manage federal Homeland Security Grant Program funding for public health, emergency and clinical medical care purposes.

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**  
*Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0011  
Fax: 808.528.0922

**NORA A. NOMURA**  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0003  
Fax: 808.528.0922

**DEREK M. MIZUNO**  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0055  
Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Health  
Committee on Public Safety

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
March 19, 2009

H.B. 317, H.D. 1 – RELATING  
TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 317, H.D. 1. The bill proposes to use Homeland Security grant program funds for the purchase of a mobile medical van, including expenses related to planning and equipment, and to provide basic medical/clinical services to people residing in the southern portion of the Big Island. This particular region of the Big Island has been heavily impacted by vog, leaving residents with little access to appropriate medical care.

As proposed, the mobile medical van would be stationed at Kona Community Hospital to serve the communities of South Kona, Ka'u and upper Puna. The mobile medical van program will establish specific routes and services to address the health related needs of these areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for H.B. 317, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 19, 2009

The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair

Senate Health and Public Safety and Military Affairs Committees

**Re: HB 317 HD1 – Relating to Mobile Medical Care**

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Espero and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 317 HD1.

HMSA is dedicated to ensuring that all of our members are able to access the care they need, when they need it. We support initiatives to increase the ability of individuals who are in underserved areas to access appropriate services. Some rural areas on our neighbor islands lack the facilities to provide appropriate levels of medical care. This is especially true of the communities of Ka'u and Upper Puna which are directly affected by volcanic emissions.

This measure would authorize the use of existing federal funds to be used for a mobile care unit to provide medical care to some of the more rural areas of the Big Island. This unit would undoubtedly save lives by providing timely access to care. We respectfully urge the committee to look favorably upon this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD' followed by a flourish.

Jennifer Diesman  
Assistant Vice President  
Government Relations