

SCR 98

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LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

**SCR 98, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN AMBULANCE DISPATCH CENTER ON
THE WEST SIDE OF KAUAI, BASED IN KALAHEO.**

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

March 3, 2010, 2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department respectfully opposes this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Staff time devoted to preparing and submitting a report to the Legislature.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure asks the Department to study the feasibility of establishing an
4 ambulance dispatch center for the west side of Kauai and reporting the findings and recommendations to
5 the Legislature. The Department opposes this measure as unnecessary. Currently, there is only one
6 ambulance dispatch center per county. Should more than one ambulance dispatch center be considered
7 for a county, it should first be considered for the county with the largest population.

8 If the intention of the measure is to add another *ambulance unit* to respond to emergencies on the
9 west side of Kauai, the Department also opposes studying that issue as funding restrictions preclude any
10 expansion of ambulance services at this time.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony In Support of

SCR 98

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN AMBULANCE DISPATCH CENTER ON
THE WEST SIDE OF KAUAI, BASED IN KALAHEO

By Al Lardizabal

To the Senate Committee on Health
March 3, 2010, Rm. 016, 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol

Senator David Y. Ige, Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The west side of the island Kauai is a growing area with more people moving into the various communities. Statistically, this will increase the need for emergency medical services. The patients requiring emergency care are more likely to be geriatric with complex needs. Patients need to be at the right place at the right time in a medical emergency.

Cardiac arrest, trauma, ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), acute stroke and respiratory distress are time-dependent illnesses that could benefit from a system that is designed and structured for efficient and effective performance. According to the American Heart Association ACLS manual, there is a 10% decrease in survival for each minute a patient is in cardiac arrest prior to receiving CPR and defibrillation.

The community of Kalaheo is located nearly equidistant from the Kauai Veteran's Memorial Hospital in Waimea and the Wilcox Memorial Hospital in Lihue. I believe that a feasibility study of a dispatch center in Kalaheo is warranted.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.