



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

February 13, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Supporting HB 363 HD 1: Relating to Emergency Medical Services

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 363 HD 1, which appropriates funds to construct an emergency medical services facility in Ewa Beach.

Access to emergency medical services and ambulance services was severely reduced for the residents of Ewa Beach when Hawaii Medical Center - West closed a little more than a year ago. Ambulances must now take patients considerable distances to emergency rooms elsewhere on Oahu. The ability to provide acceptable levels of emergency medical services to the residents of Ewa Beach has been threatened. This bill will expand emergency medical services and ambulance services in the Ewa Beach community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 363 HD 1.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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H.B. 363, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 363, Relating to Emergency Medical Services. My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, Trauma, ED and Chief Nursing Officer of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC). This measure will provide the Ewa Beach Unit of ambulance services with permanent funding.

The Queen's Health Systems has successfully purchased the former Hawaii Medical Center West hospital. We are planning to re-open as The Queen's Health Systems – West Oahu in 2014. Still, even with the new facility in place, we believe that the growing population will continue to require the increased ambulance services augmented and supported through this measure.

We urge your support for this measure.