

HTH-PSM HEARING

HB363

TESTIMONY



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, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

H.B. 363, HD2, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

Friday, March 15, 2013, 1:45 pm

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this bill provided that its passage does not
2 replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. We respectfully request that
3 the funds be appropriated directly to the City and County of Honolulu for this project.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds in FY2014 for the demolition of the Ewa Beach Fire Station
5 and the construction of a new ambulance facility.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health supported Act 268 of the 2012 Legislature for a
7 new ambulance unit in Ewa Beach, Oahu. The new unit was needed to mitigate the closure of Hawaii
8 Medical Center West, and also to serve the growing population of Ewa and West Oahu.

9 The Honolulu Fire Department has vacated its Ewa Fire Station moving into a new station. This
10 location is ideal for the new Ewa ambulance unit which opened this past summer operating out of a
11 temporary location in Ewa. The former fire station's building is not suitable for a new ambulance unit. The
12 need an additional unit in West Oahu is unchanged and therefore we recommend it become a permanent unit
13 and support the construction of a new facility to house the ambulance vehicle and its personnel.

14 We respectfully request that the funds be appropriated directly to the City and County of
15 Honolulu for this project.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

March 15, 2013 at 1:45 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Supporting HB 363 HD 2: 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, a majority of home health agencies and hospices, as well as long term care facilities and other health care organizations. Our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 363 HD 2, 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.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports HB 363 HD 2.