



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Judiciary

H.B. 90, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES

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

Friday, February 15, 2013, 2:00pm

1 **Department's Position:** We appreciate the intent of this bill, but are **opposed** to the creation of a new
2 Task Force as the purpose could be fulfilled by the existing State Emergency Medical Services Advisory
3 Committee.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** If enacted as currently written, the Department would require a revenue stream for
5 task force activities.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** While "emergency response vehicles" is not defined in this measure, it
7 appears that the focus is on vehicles responding to medical calls, i.e. the emergency medical services
8 system. If this measure is primarily focused on emergency medical responses, then the State Emergency
9 Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) would be an appropriate venue to address the
10 concerns expressed. As set forth in HRS 321-22.5, EMSAC is established to advise the Department on
11 all matters related to the emergency medical services system. It is set forth in statute that EMSAC shall
12 review and evaluate the system on an ongoing basis, seek the input of the public, and prepare and submit
13 periodic assessments and reports. The EMSAC consists of emergency physicians, allied health
14 providers, paramedics, and consumer representatives from all four counties and the Director of
15 Transportation is an ex-officio member. Based on the number of complaints received by EMS agencies

1 regarding noise, it is timely that the Legislature draws attention to this matter and we agree that it should
2 be studied. We suggest that a sub-committee of EMSAC similar to the noise reduction task force could
3 be formed to address the issues in this measure and produce a report and recommendations.

4 It does appear from the suggested composition of the task force that perhaps law enforcement
5 and fire-fighting responses using lights and sirens are also expected to be addressed. However, we
6 respectfully suggest that another agency, perhaps the Department of Transportation or Public Safety
7 would be better suited to address the issues related to those types of emergency responses.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
JADE BUTAY
RANDY GRUNE
JADINE URASAKI

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 15, 2013
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room

H.B. 90, HD 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill as it will look into the impact of sirens from emergency response vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 326
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: H.B. 90, H.D. 1 Relating to Emergency Response Vehicles

I am Robert Westerman, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC and the KFD supports the intent of H.B. 90, H.D. 1, which seeks to establish a temporary emergency response vehicle task force to determine the impact of the emergency response vehicle sirens in terms of excessive noise, the effect on public safety, and the relative effectiveness of the use of emergency lights instead of the use of sirens at night.

In compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-65, which authorizes emergency vehicles to use audible and visible warning devices when responding to emergencies to warn other drivers and pedestrians and request the right-of-way. Emergency response with audible and visible warning devices activated still requires the vehicle operator to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using our roadways. When either visible or audible warning devices are not used, emergency vehicles are not considered emergency vehicles and are subject to all the traffic laws and rules.

While the fire service is sensitive to the communities' concern for noise that sirens and horns create, we need to respond as safely and expeditiously as possible to the public's request for life safety and property protection assistance with all warning devices in operation.

The SFC and the KFD supports the intent of H.B. 90, H.D. 1, to discuss the issues and create a greater understanding with the various stakeholders related to emergency vehicle response.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Page 2
February 14, 2013

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



ROBERT WESTERMAN
Vice Chair

RW/LR

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK W. CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KK-LC

February 15, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 90, H.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Response Vehicles

I am Kurt Kendro, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly opposes the passage of House Bill No. 90, H.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Response Vehicles. Passage of this bill would create a task force including a member representing the four county police departments to determine the impact of emergency response vehicle sirens in terms of excessive noise, the effect on public safety, and the relative effectiveness of the use of emergency lights instead of the use of sirens at night.

The response of emergency vehicles is regulated by section 291C-26, Authorized Emergency Vehicles, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which requires the use of authorized audible and visual signals. There are limited exceptions for police vehicles to comply with the requirements of the section in specific situations. The use of audible sirens and visual emergency lights is essential for the safety of the first responder as well as the safety of the community. Emergency lights and sirens are developed to protect motorists, pedestrians, and anyone else who are using the roadways and sidewalks.

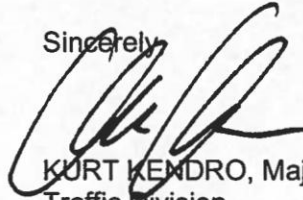
The HPD would strongly oppose any changes to the existing laws and requirements for the use of emergency lights and sirens. To make any changes would endanger motorists, pedestrians, and anyone else who use the roadways.

The HPD strongly urges you to oppose House Bill No. 90, H.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Response Vehicles.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Page 2
February 15, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

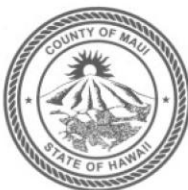
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Kendro', written in a cursive style.

KURT KENDRO, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis M. Kealoaha', written in a cursive style.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
FAX (808) 270-7919
EMAIL: fire.dept@mauicounty.gov

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 326
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: H.B. 90, H.D. 1 Relating to Emergency Response Vehicles

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC supports the intent of H.B. 90, H.D. 1, which seeks to establish a temporary emergency response vehicle task force to determine the impact of the emergency response vehicle sirens in terms of excessive noise, the effect on public safety, and the relative effectiveness of the use of emergency lights instead of the use of sirens at night.

In compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-65, which authorizes emergency vehicles to use audible and visible warning devices when responding to emergencies to warn other drivers and pedestrians and request the right-of-way. Emergency response with audible and visible warning devices activated still requires the vehicle operator to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using our roadways. When either visible or audible warning devices are not used, emergency vehicles are not considered emergency vehicles and are subject to all the traffic laws and rules.

While the fire service is sensitive to the communities' concern for noise that sirens and horns create, we need to respond as safely and expeditiously as possible to the public's request for life safety and property protection assistance with all warning devices in operation.

The MFD and the SFC supports the intent of H.B. 90, H.D. 1, to discuss the issues and create a greater understanding with the various stakeholders related to emergency vehicle response.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Page 2
February 13, 2012

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 326
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: H.B. 90, H.D. 1 Relating to Emergency Response Vehicles

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD supports the intent of H.B. 90, H.D. 1, which seeks to establish a temporary emergency response vehicle task force to determine the impact of the emergency response vehicle sirens in terms of excessive noise, the effect on public safety, and the relative effectiveness of the use of emergency lights instead of the use of sirens at night.

In compliance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes 291C-65, which authorizes emergency vehicles to use audible and visible warning devices when responding to emergencies to warn other drivers and pedestrians and request the right-of-way, emergency response with audible and visible warning devices activated still requires the vehicle operator to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using our roadways. When either visible or audible warning devices are not used, emergency vehicles are not considered emergency vehicles and are subject to all the traffic laws and rules.

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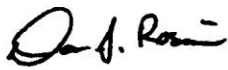


The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
February 13, 2013
Page 2

The SFC and the HFD supports the intent of H.B. 90, H.D. 1, to discuss the issues and create a greater understanding with the various stakeholders related to emergency vehicle response.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren J. Rosario". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief, SFC Member

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 12:20 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kai.suzuki@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB90 on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM*

HB90

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 4:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: john@myhawaiiibusiness.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB90 on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM*

HB90

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Lester Bumanglag	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 15, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

RE: H.B. 90, H.D. 1; RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, speaking as an individual citizen, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 90, H.D. 1.

Although my family and I have lived in the same location for nearly 20 years--in the vicinity of 2 hospitals and a fire station--the issue of late-night sirens (from emergency response vehicles) has gotten significantly worse over the past few years. Not only are emergency vehicles passing by more often, but also, rather than simply using sirens as a warning when approaching intersections, sirens are blasted continuously as the emergency vehicle travels throughout the neighborhood -- sometimes honking their horns as well. At its worst, we were awoken four (4) times in the same week, all between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Sometimes two (2) sirens would pass by in the same night (e.g. 12:30 a.m. and 3:45 a.m.).

While I understand the need to protect the safety of pedestrians and other vehicles, our neighborhood is EXTREMELY quiet during the late-night and early-morning hours, and there are practically no other vehicles or pedestrians on our roads after 9 or 10 pm. On several occasions when I stayed up late—and heard an ambulance or fire truck approach (using continuous sirens)—I went outside to observe the traffic conditions; nearly every time, there were no other vehicles on the road, in either direction.

Last Fall, my boyfriend & I actually went door-to-door in our neighborhood, collecting signatures from other people who are also very concerned about this issue. Within 2 1/2 hours, 96 people signed-on to our joint request (see attached); many shared stories of exhaustion and hopelessness; only 3 people declined to sign. Using this list, we communicated our concerns to local ambulance and fire truck drivers—via the neighborhood board and others—to some success.

Luckily, over the past few months, it seems many late-night ambulance and fire truck drivers in our area have switched to “chirping” their sirens, and only when approaching intersections. However, this practice is still inconsistent and there are still occasional late-night sirens (blasted continuously), even when there are no other vehicles on the road.


Although I have not discussed this issue with anyone in other districts, I can only guess that our neighborhood’s moderate success was due to our proactive request, rather than a department-wide policy-change within EMS or HFD. Moreover, there is no guarantee that this practice will continue over the coming months or years. For this and all of the foregoing reasons, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 90. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

We, the people signed below, greatly appreciate the important service and dedication of our City and County ambulance & fire truck drivers. However, please understand that we try very hard to be good neighbors to our neighborhood hospitals and fire house, so we would humbly ask them to do the same for us. When ambulances and/or fire trucks run through our streets late at night or early in the morning, with their sirens blasting the entire way, or sometimes even honking their horns along the way, it is very very loud for all of us who live here. It can—and does—wake us up at all hours of the night, rattle our otherwise quiet homes and neighborhood, and affect our daily lives...sometimes even our ability to concentrate or do our own jobs.

Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and especially during the hours when it is dark enough for vehicles & pedestrians to see an emergency vehicle's flashing lights, please do not keep sirens on continuously as you travel through our residential streets. There is very little traffic on our streets during these hours, and most of us are in our homes and/or sound asleep. We do understand if sirens must be "chirped" at busy intersections or other important safety points, but please remember to place some value our family's peace & quiet...and sleep.

Thank you very much for your help and understanding. We will continue to be supportive and live side-by-side with everyone as a community, and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely ~ Your neighbors and residents of Lanakila & lower Liliha

We, the people signed below, greatly appreciate the important service and dedication of our City and County ambulance & fire truck drivers. However, please understand that we try very hard to be good neighbors to our neighborhood hospitals and fire house, so we would humbly ask them to do the same for us. When ambulances and/or fire trucks run through our streets late at night or early in the morning, with their sirens blasting the entire way, or sometimes even honking their horns along the way, it is very very loud for all of us who live here. It can—and does—wake us up at all hours of the night, rattle our otherwise quiet homes and neighborhood, and affect our daily lives...sometimes even our ability to concentrate or do our own jobs.

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Thank you very much for your help and understanding. We will continue to be supportive and live side-by-side with everyone as a community, and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely ~ Your neighbors and residents of Lanakila & lower Liliha

<u>John Suzuki</u>	<u>Edna Ayon</u>	_____
<u>Josue Scuria</u>	<u>Simone Liang</u>	_____
<u>Robert Ching</u>	<u>Robert Mayashid</u>	_____
<u>Jessie Wong</u>	<u>Idatulayn</u>	_____
<u>Hilmita Soriano</u>	<u>Ms. E. Soy</u>	_____
<u>Suzie B. Soriano</u>	<u>Wong. Y. P</u>	_____
<u>Carina G. Manzanillo</u>	<u>To Yuk Keng</u>	_____
<u>Dawn P. Oatway</u>	<u>Angela</u>	_____

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Thank you very much for your help and understanding. We will continue to be supportive and live side-by-side with everyone as a community, and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely ~ Your neighbors and residents of Lanakila & lower Liliha

<u>Cherh Lu</u>	<u>Amah</u>	<u>Susan Delava</u>
<u>Thomas G.M. Ho</u>	<u>Jim Ann</u>	<u>Regina</u>
<u>Subj...</u>	<u>Wu Wu</u>	<u>Tracy...</u>
<u>Laetta L. H. Adoga</u>	<u>ph...</u>	<u>Cheryl</u>
<u>Gerardo...</u>	<u>Jim</u>	<u>Ronan Ronal</u>
<u>Atty...</u>	<u>Jim</u>	<u>Karen V...</u>
<u>Megan...</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>Wally</u>
<u>Ernest S. Greene</u>	<u>Ming...</u>	<u>Doris T. ...</u>

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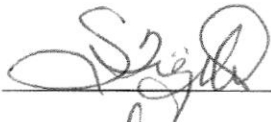

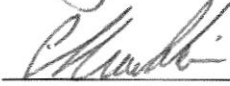
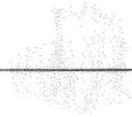
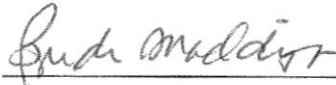
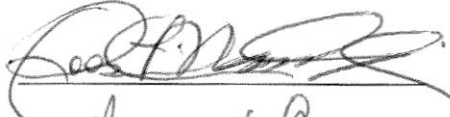
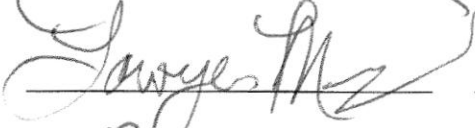
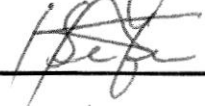
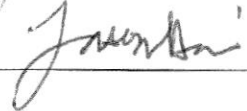
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

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Thank you very much for your help and understanding. We will continue to be supportive and live side-by-side with everyone as a community, and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely ~ Your neighbors and residents of Lanakila & lower Liliha

	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 1:54 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: vgoins@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB90 on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM*

HB90

Submitted on: 2/14/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Verdean L. Goins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov