

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

LATE TESTIMONY

February 6, 2013
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**H.B. 90
RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

House Committee on Transportation

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
Phone: (808) 723-7803 • Fax: (808) 768-1460

LATE TESTIMONY

PATRICIA J. DUKES, MICT
CHIEF OF EMS



WAYNE KRUSE, MICT
ASSISTANT CHIEF-OPERATIONS

VICKI L. BENTZEN, RN
ASSISTANT CHIEF-QA

February 4, 2013

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair, and
Members of the House Transportation Committee

SUBJECT: HB 90 RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES

Dear Chair Yamane, and the Members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am Patricia J. Dukes, Chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). I testify in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 90 RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES.**

City and County of Honolulu EMS is the primary provider of emergency medical care and ambulance services to the residents and visitors on the island of O'ahu. EMS responded over 75,000 times in Calendar Year 2012, 95% of those responses necessitated a "hot" response (using warning devices). EMS transported approximately 50,000 patients to a medical facility, of which less than 40% were considered life threatening (therefore, required warning devices while transporting the patient.)

It is a fact that automobile makers strive to provide their consumers with the most quiet ride possible, therefore virtually soundproofing vehicles from outside noises. Compound the quiet ride with sound systems, air conditioning, and casual conversation, and subsequently the driving public cannot readily hear the sirens of an approaching emergency vehicle.

As the Chief of EMS, I receive numerous calls complaining of siren noise. Several complaints result from callers awakened from sleep because of the wailing siren on a seemingly empty street. The siren noise reverberates from the buildings of metropolitan Honolulu, exacerbating the noise pollution. From dusk to dawn, I believe the bright LED lights of emergency vehicles are highly effective, and the siren is not necessary. I support a task force "to examine the use and effectiveness of lights and sirens on emergency response vehicles."

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 90 RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES.**

Sincerely,
Patricia J. Dukes
Patricia J. Dukes, BS, AS MICT
Chief of EMS

HEMS Utilization Comparison By Year

