

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

S.B. 498, SD2, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

Thursday, March 28, 2013, 2:00 pm

1 **Department's Position:** We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely
2 impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget and address a revenue stream to carryout its intent.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds for FY2014 and FY2015 from EMS Special Fund (ESF). The
4 Department is projecting a shortfall in ESF to fund existing ambulance contracts for FY2014 so could
5 not fund these additional services at that time. Due to increasing cigarette taxes and revenues after July
6 1, 2014, increased funding will be available.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure proposes an advanced life support emergency medical
8 services (EMS) unit stationed at Maalaea in Maui County that can rapidly respond to 911 calls in the
9 surrounding areas. This location is strategically located between the communities of West and South
10 Maui, overall, an area that has grown in population in the past ten years.

11 Emergency response with a non-transporting rapid response EMS unit at Maalaea could
12 significantly reduce the response time to serious and critical medical and trauma cases in Maui County,
13 initiating early treatment and providing additional personnel for multi-victim incidents and for helicopter
14 transports.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

March 28, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Commenting in Support of SB 498 SD 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 SB 498 SD 2, which appropriates funds for a special emergency medical response vehicle unit based in Maalaea on Maui.

The population of Maui has grown rapidly in recent years, increasing at about 7% annually, with Maalaea, west Maui, and south Maui experiencing much of the growth. Only two ambulances serve the residents of these districts. The population increase has increased the call volume, which in turn has affected their timely response capabilities. A timely response to a 911 call is critical to ensure the best possible medical outcome.

The last time new emergency medical services ambulance units were added on Maui was in 2004. This bill would fund a special emergency medical response vehicle unit modeled after successful units on Oahu and the mainland. Although it would not be used for patient transport, it would provide advanced life support services to augment the basic services of fire department first responders. It is designed to stabilize patients in the crucial initial stage of injury, illness, or cardiac arrest, and ultimately save lives.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports SB 498 SD 2.

Hawaii State Legislature
SB498
Testimony of Kelley Withy, President of Hawaii State Rural Health Association
March 2013

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association would like to express our strongest support for SB498. We are acutely aware of the fact that rural areas in Hawaii suffer from lack of access to necessary healthcare services, including Emergency Medical Services. Without such services we don't have the infrastructure to support our most vulnerable citizens.

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association supports legislation that will increase services to rural communities, including legislation that supports expanding the health workforce, developing assistance programs for rural areas, and expanding the facilities available to rural citizens. We look forward to this being done in culturally appropriate ways with grass roots community involvement at all steps of the process.

Therefore we strongly support this bill and hope you will pass it. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
President, Hawaii State Rural Health Association

SB498

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pam Daoust	Ma'alaea Community Association	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB498. A Special Response Vehicle (SRV) Paramedic unit is desperately needed in Ma'alaea. Our community association has received reports of slow emergency response times in life threatening situations. If an SRV is stationed here, not only will response times improve for Ma'alaea but also for elsewhere on Maui. Thank you for your consideration.

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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SB498

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Riebling	Maalaea Community Association	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB498, which would put medical responders in Maalaea. Aside from Maalaea's strategic location at the intersection of the transit corridors between Central, South and West Maui, there is also an urgent need for an SRV in Maalaea itself. In addition to the approximately 1,000 full-time owner-occupants and visitors, many elderly, there is also the harbor with its associated boating activities, the aquarium, restaurants and shops, the Coast Guard Station, Haycraft Beach Park and its adjacent isolated beach (the site of frequent water rescues), all of which frequently require SRV responses from locations far away, when every minute counts. Currently, response time averages 20 minutes. Please support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important public safety measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 9:48:38 AM

SB498

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American Medical Response	Support	Yes

Comments:

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SB498

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelley Womack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Comments: I strongly urge your support of SB 498, Maalalea Special Responders Vehicle (SVR) paramedics unit. As a health care provider for more than 25 years, I am appalled that urgent and emergent health care services are not readily available to many of the citizens and visitors on Maui, particularly on the West side/Lahaina area. Having the SVR stationed at Maalalea would go a long way in keeping our island and its people safe and well taken care of. Please support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important public safety measure.

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Testimony submitted to: Committee on Finance, Hawaii House of Representatives
Hearing date Thursday, March 28th 2013 at 2:00pm

Regarding SB 498, Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair Aaron Ling Johanson, and members of the Committee:

The addition of this specialized paramedic unit in Maui is literally critical. It has been nearly a decade since an EMS unit was added in Maui. In the last several years, EMS call volume has risen steadily (~20%), and out-of-district responses have risen precipitously (>25%), due to scarce ambulance resources. As of this writing and as only one example, in the first 85 days of this year the paramedic unit for Kihei has been pulled out of that town to respond elsewhere in the county over 110 times. This phenomenon is repeated every day in multiple areas of the county, most notably in West, South and Central Maui.

The Special Response Vehicle (SRV) Paramedic unit would be strategically placed in Maalaea, which is precisely at the intersection of these three busiest districts. By locating the unit there, the growing community of Maalaea will have an EMS resource where there is currently none, and the SRV unit will also be available when needed for rapid provision of Advanced Life Support (ALS) in those surrounding districts of West, South, and Central Maui. This will mean that instead of having to wait 45 minutes or more for ALS as some of these patients currently do, the SRV unit will often be there to stabilize the patient within 15 minutes or less. Experts from the American Heart Association to the American College of Surgeons have recognized that early Advanced Life Support is key to life and death situations.

Notably for the consideration of the Committee on Finance, this Maalaea SRV unit represents a highly efficient and cost-effective use of resources, with estimated operating costs less than one-third the appropriation for a new ambulance in Honolulu County. With passage of this bill, the simple addition of one specialized paramedic unit will immediately translate to a much more adaptable EMS system in Maui -- and many lives will be saved as a result.

Thank you for your support.



David N. Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM

SB498

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Over the past (4) years, increase in resident & visitor populations have resulted in a rise in the number of 9-1-1 calls for Emergency Medical Services in both South & West Maui districts. 2004 was the last year there were any EMS state funds appropriated for upgrades in ground ambulance services. SB #498-SD2 supports a 'special response vehicle' operation that will augment Maui EMS in a more flexible, need-specific way. • It will ADD a FASTER response to the entire Maalaea community where there is no current EMS or fire units stationed. Closest for both responses are from Wailuku + Kihei. • This unit will be able to move into (South or West) Maui districts that may have both of their respective ambulances 'on-assignments' thereby creating a FASTER paramedic response than is currently available coming from another (outside) district. • An additional Paramedic resource will be available for multi-casualty incidents 24/7 including assisting Central Maui area. The Maalaea area has increased its call volume by 64% between 2009 and 2012. Additionally, the WEST Maui Ambulance Districts have received 48% more responses that have come from ambulance units that were 'outside' this district including from Kihei, Wailea, + Central Maui. Any ambulance response from 'out-of-district' results in a LONGER response time. This roving, FIRST Response "special response vehicle" will be able to render Advanced Life Support treatment while awaiting transport. Although transport is important, being able to render IMMEDIATE life-saving skills as well as administering critical medications may be the difference between life & death. This Paramedic WILL make a difference!! Please pass SB498-SD2 . Thank you!!

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Stapleton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a member of the Maalaea Community and as a professional lifesaver, I have seen the need for an EMS substation in Maalaea I have been stationed there for the last 6 months and have seen multiple victims of Cardiac incidents and other snorkeling accidents. Having a Paramedic out of Maalaea would greatly enhance the lifesaving capability of all agencies concerned and would decrease valuable response time to afflicted individuals. Many of the victims that come in are in Cardiac Arrest and ALS would possibly save many of these lives.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jose Saa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candace Lahm	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help us to save lives on Maui. This is crucial.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
douglas vant groenewout	Individual	Support	No

Comments: this is a relatively affordable means of further serving all populace of maui county in the realm of pre-hospital care. thank you for your support

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyle Likua	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill. Maui county is growing bigger every year. We need more emergency units

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SB498

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
terence matsuo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support senate bill 498, Maui needs more ambulance stations to cover a growing population.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Marie Later	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the Trauma Program Manager for Maui County, i track all the patients who come through the Emergency Department for trauma related injuries. It goes without saying that with the growing population of Maui, we have an ever increasing volume of patients utilizing ambulance services. Maui is in need of support services such as this to ensure that our community has adequate and efficient first responder services in order to reduce morbidity and mortality at one of the most critical times of injury severity. One benefit to adding this service to the Ma'alaea area is that it is located in a crucial area that allows for easier access to assist EMS services in central Maui, Kihei, and Lahaina.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HIROKO YOSHINO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph D Pluta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This vehicle is needed to save lives with Maui's inadequate coverage of Emergency Vehicles and tragic medical outcomes occur due to this. Lives are literally at stake here! Please help us and pass this bill into law! Malama Pono ame Mahalo.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Guyre-Allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a important measure to secure timely Medical Assistance in our County.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james kimmel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB498

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steph ozoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse K. Aloy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in FULL support of this SB489. Definitely, a necessity for the people and visitors of this beautiful island!

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Re: Senate Bill 498 SD2
Letter in Support

Dear Representative Luke:

I am writing to you to support SB 498 to establish a Advanced Life Support Rapid Response Unit in Maalea Maui. The American Heart Association has identified key factors in surviving out of hospital sudden death. A key link in the Chain of Survival is access to rapid Advanced Life Support. Access to rapid ALS is also a key link to survival of many out of hospital emergency conditions such as stroke, internal bleeding, and victims of trauma. Indeed, the “golden hour” is dependent on a rapid initial response to direct a critical trauma patient to the appropriate means of transport to life-saving resources.

As Maui grows, the emergency medical services system is often strained by simultaneous calls and by long response and transport times. It is not unusual for both West Maui ambulance units to be simultaneously engaged in patient care and transport. It is also not unusual for both South Maui ambulance units to be similarly engaged with patient care. Whenever one of these situations occur, an ambulance from another district must be re-positioned to provide a shorter response time to an open district. This leaves emergency response to that unit’s primary service area as well as to the vacated service district delayed....a net system loss of response times to both regions.

Further exacerbating this challenge is the new requirement from the State EMSSIP Branch that every ambulance must stay at the hospital until an electronic patient care record is completed except in certain circumstances. Since a serious/critical EPCR involves many fields of data collection besides the documentation of patient care provided, these EPCRs may take an additional 30-60 minutes to complete, sometimes longer depending on the complications of the case and signature collections. Provisions to release an emergency ambulance have been made, providing that a hand written Brief Ambulance Report (BAR) is completed and scanned. This means that emergency ambulance personnel must write out a BAR before they leave the hospital, further delaying the process.

Even if an ambulance is immediately able to respond to the West Side, it would take over 30 minutes to respond to Lahaina and over 40 minutes to reach Napili. And it would take more than 20 minutes to respond to Kihei and well over 30 minutes to respond deep in to Wailea. These response times are not consistent with the AHA’s Chain of Survival, nor with documented survival times needed to survive critical medical and traumatic emergencies.

As a former member of the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee for 8 years and as a member and the Facilitator for the Maui County EMS Advisory Committee for over 30 years, I understand system planning and resource allocation.

I believe that an Advanced Life Support Rapid Response Unit (RRU) placed in Maalaea and that is flexibly deployed to open areas would solve these issues. A RRU can be strategically positioned when ambulances are out of district. An RRU can help coordinated and direct the MEDEVAC helicopter when it is needed. The RRU can help in triage and directing appropriate resources in an multiple casualty incident. And the RRU can help provide Advanced Life Support Coverage (thus strengthening the Chain of Survival) whenever an emergency ambulance is unable to respond in a timely manner for any reason. And since an RRU would be staffed by only one MICT, ALS coverage would be provided in a cost efficient manner.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB498.

Thank you for your attention,

Scotty Schaefer MICT
Kaunakakai, Hi
3-27-13

SB498

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arthur Chasen MD FACS	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Need additional prehospital support

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