



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Health**

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

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

**Friday, March 15, 2013, 8:30 am**

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 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.

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

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Gragas	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments: SB498 would greatly improve provision of EMS services. It would provide an advanced life support, ALS, adjunct to a responding Maui County Fire unit which already provides excellent first responder care. A mobile non-transport ALS unit will provide flexibility during busy days, very cost effective versus the establishment of another ambulance station. Thank you for allowing online testimony.

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**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** rosesabroad@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/14/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Rose	MauiCounty Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments: I support SB498. It will provide much needed coverage for the Island of Maui at a reduced cost.

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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Please support the proposed Maalaea Special Response Vehicle (SRV) Paramedic unit. Ma'alaea is a perfect location for an SRV due to its centralized location between Central, South and West Maui. From Ma'alaea, an SRV can reach almost any well-populated region of Maui to fill in as needed. Since the Ma'alaea community itself lacks any nearby emergency services, we would eagerly welcome an SRV in the area and see it as potentially lifesaving. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Cc:** chiknutbred@gmail.com  
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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Rossi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support for the HB498 for the SRV EMS unit in Maalaea. The passage of this measure would create a more efficient EMS system on Maui. There have been numerous calls when Westside or Southside units have been on other 911 calls, when patients have had to wait for greater than 30 minutes for an ambulance. As a paramedic in Maui County I see this first hand. Many times we as medics are looked at as the "slow lazy medics who take forever to get there". When we arrive and tell these patients, family members, etc. what the situation is on Maui and the limited number of ambulances and hospitals (one) we have, I frequently have to spend time saying "I know, I know, I don't get it either but we try to get to you as quick as we can". Many of the patients and there families are tourists who are blown away with disbelief that given the distance to our ONLY hospital from Lahaina and Wailea/Makena areas, that there should at least be more resources provided with a faster response time available to make up for that increased distance and lost time. Our medic program is one of the more extensive programs in the country, as EMT's train hard to become paramedics, only to graduate and realize that much more how susceptible to tragedy our current system is. Extensive schooling and all, we have limits in how good we can actually be if we are not provided the resources to do our job. If future projects creating newer communities in Olowalu and Launiopoko are seen through, we must have resources and infrastructure in p lace NOW, and not wait until a situation turns awful where people are asking questions that have no viable response. Be a part of positive, forward thinking legislation. Thank you for your time and I look forward with great passion to providing the best ca re for our residents and tourists alike. Steven Rossi MICT #1985 Maui County EMS

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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher P. Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a 20 year resident of Lahaina and an EMT serving in Lahaina for the past five years I am very aware of the need for additional resources in the County especially on the West Side. We have up to 80 thousand full time residence and visitors in peak season and only two Ambulances to care for that amount of people. There are many occasions that the Kihei and Wailuku ambulances must come all the way to the West Side to take care of people. As you know time is tissue. Having a fulltime additional resource in Maalea would help alleviate frequent stresses to the EMS System and potentially SAVE LIVES! West Maui has needed a Hospital for many years. Since there is none the public relies on Medics for EVERYTHING! Please give us the Maalea SRV Unit by passing SB498. I am certain it is a step in the right direction. Mahalo Nui Loa, C.P. Arnold

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
william watkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 498. It would provide valuable EMS coverage for the Maalaea area and just as importantly provide back up coverage to south, West and Central Maui. Thanks William Watkins

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Testimony submitted by David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic  
Testimony submitted to the Committee on Health, Hawaii House of Representatives  
Hearing date Friday, March 15, 2013 at 8:30 A.M.

Regarding SB 498, Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa, and members of the Committee on Health:

Establishing a Special Response Vehicle (SRV) Paramedic unit for Maalaea, Maui is *literally critical*. Not only is Maalaea itself completely without any paramedic resources, it is located exactly between the busy but under-resourced areas of West, South, and Central Maui. With population and call volume rising substantially, it is becoming alarmingly routine for ambulances to be pulled out of their districts to respond to a far away region of the island. It is untenable for us to provide rapid response and quality care having had no addition of paramedic units for the last nine years. We presented various data to illustrate this problem in support of SB 498. Most of these data ran through the end of 2012.

I offer just one example of how this trend continues: As of this writing, the Kihei ambulance has been pulled out of South Maui to respond specifically to Maalaea, West Maui, and Central Maui 72 times in the 71 days since January 1st, 2013. This same circumstance occurs with other ambulance units multiple times every day, particularly in these busy regions of Maui. Every time this happens, it means an ambulance is forced to abandon its own district, and it means that patients in Maalaea, West Maui, South Maui, and Central Maui may have to wait as long as 45 minutes or more before Advanced Life Support (ALS) care arrives.

With the simple - and remarkably cost effective - addition of a Special Response Vehicle Paramedic unit strategically located in Maui, morbidity and mortality will immediately and markedly improve. While less than half the cost of ambulances in Hawaii, the SRV unit will mark a truly intelligent use of EMS resources. The SRV Paramedic will provide ALS treatment and stabilization, field triage, and will coordinate the appropriate mode of transport when transport is required. In major emergencies, the SRV Paramedic will fulfill a crucial Incident Command role. And in an era of great challenges for community health, the SRV Paramedic unit would be an appropriate venue for expanded scope clinical care and public health outreach. I urge the House Committee on Health to pass SB 498, and I ask that members of the House and Senate actively work to assure its steady progress forward for implementation in the Fall of 2013.

Thank you,



David N. Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** dcoderunner@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
douglas vant groenewout	Individual	Support	No

Comments: this is a wonderful opportunity to serve all people in maui county in a frugal (considering the cost of an ambulance station) way. I supervise Medic3 ambulance that consistantly must be pulled out of our district to respond to pts on the west side. how do you tell an asthmatic/chest pain/STROKE pt to wait 20-25 minutes for intervention? mahalo.

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**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** hma1094@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM\*

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heidi Aiwohi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:57 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** punahele1124@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM\*

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HIROKO YOSHINO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** aloy911@yahoo.com  
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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesse K. Aloy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am strongly in favor of this bill! To put things in perspective, by passing this bill, the life you save may be your own!

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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 9:33 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** mike\_mcdonald27@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael McDonald	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important service upgrade

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**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** pluta@maui.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph D Pluta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There are currently tragic outcomes resulting from wholly inadequate emergency responders in West Maui, some lives are lost as a result. This is sorely needed and needs to be brought to a reality as soon as possible. Malama Pono ame Mahalo

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Seebart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please vote for this bill, to add a 24 hr. medical response vehicle at Maalaea. This is an inexpensive, and good first step to improve emergency medical response times on the West and South sides of Maui. The distances and travel times to Maui Memorial from the Westside tie up our current compliment of medical responders fairly often. In any large medical emergency, as simple as a multi- victim traffic accident, we are left without medical 1st-responders. Mahalo for your consideration. John Seebart

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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:47 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** souki911@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Noelani Soule	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fund this unit which is extremely important for the growing population of Maui County. Mahalo!

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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mona Arcinas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health  
Re: Senate Bill 498 SD2  
Letter in Support

Dear Representative Au Belatti:

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  
3-13-13

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 3:10 PM  
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**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
MICHELE NOTESTONE	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2013 5:51 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** riebling@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/14/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
shelley womack, APRN	Individual	Support	No

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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**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 9:57 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** tcroyer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom Royer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a permanent resident of Maalaea and have only had a single experience with emergency medical services on Maui. In 2011, my wife had difficulty breathing and I called 911. While the response team was coming, I did CPR on her. Though it seemed like hours, they arrived in about 20 minutes. Unfortunately she died. In this case it was uncertain as to whether a faster response would have saved her, but I think about my neighbors living here today that might have a similar situation where the patient could survive. The Maalaea SRV would reduce the anxiety involved in a delayed response. It would also serve the needs of West Maui and the new community at Olowalu. I strongly support this SRV.

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**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 11:54 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** ryan@hawaiipublicadjuster.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB498 on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM\*

**SB498**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 15, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Joslin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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