

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
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February 24, 2014

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Ige:

Subject: SB2644 Making an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services in the Puna District

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB2644 to make an appropriation for Emergency Medical Services in the Puna District; we respectfully request that an amendment be made to reflect a change in the language in Section 1 requesting a "Emergency Medical Services unit, equipped with Advance Life Support" to an Advanced Life Support Ambulance/Medic Unit".

The EMS needs of the residents of Puna are centrally served by HFD Medic's 5 and 10 out of the Kea'au and Pahoa Fire stations respectively. These units are strategically based to serve the bulk of Puna's population handling 91% of EMS calls in Puna. Medic 19 out of the Volcano Fire Station serves a less populated area of Puna but fills a wide geographical gap (45 miles) between Kea'au and Ka'u.

- In 2007-2008 the Puna district accounted for 3,970 or 21% of all EMS calls in the County of Hawai'i.
- In 2013-2014 the Puna district accounted for 5,149 calls or 27% of all EMS calls in the County of Hawai'i.



The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
February 24, 2014
Page 2

The District of Puna is roughly the size of the Island of Kauai, has a population of 45,326 and has become one of the fastest growing districts in the State of Hawai'i with a population increase of 44% since 2000. Over the next 15 years the population of Puna is expected to grow to 75,000 nearly half the current population of Hawai'i Island.

Access to primary health care in Puna is challenging for the community, for many Puna residents primary care services are as much as 30 miles away, coupled with economic and transportation challenges EMS has become the access point for health care to many in Puna.

The volume of EMS calls have crept up year by year with no increase in EMS services to the Puna district; with the projected population increase this will no doubt continue and impact our ability to deliver high quality EMS services. As mentioned 911 EMS cases in Puna account for more than 27% of all 911 calls in Hawai'i County, to compound this, the round trip time from response to back in quarters on a patient transport is approximately two hours. It is become common for Medics 5 and 10 to have ten or more transports in a twenty-four hour shift the resulting simple math means; our personnel can essentially be on the road for nearly twenty-four consecutive hours. As a result the potential for fatigue, errors in judgment, driving and overall safety are of great concern for our personnel.

This increase in Puna's call volume is also having a collateral impact on two of our departments busiest units located in Hilo (Medic's 1 and 3) who respond to a combined 34 % of all Hawai'i County 911 EMS calls. Medic's 1 and 3 cover the Puna District when the Puna units are unavailable. Since 2007 there has been a 50% increase in responses from Medics 1 and 3 into the Puna District and there are numerous times when the majority of our East Hawai'i EMS assets Medics 1, 3, 5, 10, 19 are all covering calls in the Puna District leaving the most populated area (Hilo) without adequate services. This has resulted in increased 911 back costs to AMR. In the 2011 – 12 fiscal period we averaged nearly \$15,000 per month in 911 back up charges to AMR, and that figure is climbing steadily.

This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to Puna (with collateral effects in Hilo), aiding our department in maintaining the highest level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change.

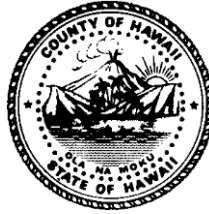
Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808)932-2903 or fire@co.hawaii.hi.us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief
SFC Member

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member
District 4 – Puna Makai



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720



February 24, 2014

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chairperson
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
and Honorable Ways and Means Committee Members
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: In Support of Senate Bill No. 2644 Relating to an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services in the Puna District.

Aloha Chairperson Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Ways and Means Committee Members,

I am Greggor Ilagan, Hawai'i County Council Member of District 4. I strongly support S.B. No. 2644, relating to an appropriation for emergency medical services in the Puna district. Puna's growing populace, challenging geographical expanse, and limited access to healthcare and emergency services, create ongoing public health and safety issues.

According to the 2010 Census, Puna is a fast growing district in the State of Hawai'i, with a population of over 45,000. Puna spans approximately 320,000 acres and is just slightly smaller than the island of Kaua'i. Patient transports from the Puna district take an average of two hours, from response time to a return to the fire station.

According to the Hawai'i Fire Department, from 2013-2014, 5,149 calls for emergency services in Puna, accounted for 27 percent of Hawai'i County's 9-1-1 calls. Puna needs this appropriation. This bill would provide for an additional emergency service vehicle augmented with advanced life support mechanisms, which would effectively increase the likelihood of successful outcomes of medically fragile individuals.

On February 19, 2014, the Hawai'i County Council voted on and passed Resolution No. 288-14, which urges the State Legislature to support House Bill Nos. 1722 and 2360, and Senate Bill No. 2348. Each of those bills seek to augment emergency medical services in Hawai'i County.

Thank you for your time, consideration and support of the health and well-being of our island's visitors and residents.

Sincerely,
Greggor Ilagan, District 4

"Health care that is safe, health care that works, and health care that leaves no one behind"

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2014
TIME: 9:25 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

I, Howard N. Ainsley, support SB2644, Making an Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services in The Puna District.

I, recognize that Puna has become the fastest growing district in the State of Hawaii. This significantly impacts the medic units in the district, providing a challenge for many residents to Primary care services, as much as thirty miles away.

This is to respectfully request that the Legislature provide sufficient funding to the Hawaii County Fire Department in order to add an Emergency Medical Unit equipped with Advanced Life Support to serve the Puna District.

Thank you, Senator Espero and Senator Baker for your support in responding to this critical medical need.

Howard N. Ainsley
East Hawaii Regional CEO
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 25, 2014 09:25AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 6:52:20 AM

SB2644

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Shorter emergency response times save lives. Please approve this bill as Puna becomes more developed with more residents which require more emergency services. Thank you!!

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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