# SB 2644

# MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE PUNA DISTRICT

Makes an appropriation for a grant-in-aid to Hawaii county fire department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna district.

PSM, WAM

William P. Kenoi

Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino

Deputy Fire Chief

January 30, 2014

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs State Capitol, Room 224 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

# 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 Will Espero, Chair January 30, 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







#### HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

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

I, Howard N. Ainsley, support SB2644, 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



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE The Twenty-Seventh Legislature Regular Session of 2014

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Honorable Sen. Will Espero, Chair The Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING:

Thursday, February 6, 2014

TIME OF HEARING:

3:00 PM

PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 224

# **TESTIMONY ON SB2644 RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE PUNA DISTRICT**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M, Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports SB2644 that appropriates funds for Emergency Medical Services in the Puna District, by making an appropriation for a grant-in-aid to Hawaii county Fire Department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna District.

With the continual growth in this area we believe that adding this EMS vehicle will save lives and provide needed health care assistance to the residents.

We ask the committee to pass Senate Bill 2644.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:38 PM

To:

PSMTestimony

Cc:

juggler@aloha.net

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### SB2644

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

 Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Graham Ellis	president of Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance	Support	No

Comments: Please give your support to this grant-in-aid to the Hawaii county fire department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna district. Puna is a huge area as large as Oahu and the fastest growing district in Hawaii it is also grossly underserved with medical and other services.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:53 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

richkoob@kalani.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### **SB2644**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Richard Koob	Kalani Oceanside Retreat Village	Support	No

Comments: The District of PUNA is larger than the island of O'ahu. PUblic and safety services are widespread and often far from remote areas, like here in the Kalani area, where 1000 people are 15 miles from the nearest county fire Dept. Please make an appropriation for a grant-in-aid to the Hawaii county fire department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna district.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 10:03 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

richard@bidleman.net

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### **SB2644**

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Puna Community Medical Center, former board member and current advisor	Support	No

Comments: On a daily basis, we see an ambulance going to or from the Hilo Medical Center on Highway 130. The ambulance that appears to be returning, is actually the ambulance from Keaau covering for the ambulance at the Pahoa fire station that is already on a run. Pahoa and Keaau cover each other. Pahoa averages over a thousand runs per year. Puna is the fastest growing district in all of Hawaii. The district covers a large area, bigger than Oahu. The Puna Community Medical Center is in the throws of creating a hospital in Puna. Until, this happens we need the support of emergency services.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:53 AM

To:

PSMTestimony davinci5@mac.com

Cc: Subject:

\*Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM\*

# SB2644

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

	Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing	
į	Scott Stoddard	Individual	Support	No	

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:31 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

dorothy.malinski@gmail.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

# SB2644

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Zipp Malinski	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As the fastest growing district in Hawai'i, please vote to give us this much needed emergency assistance. Especially with Hwy 130 being just two lanes, it can take emergency personnel from Keaau or Hilo way too much time to get to us here in Pahoa. Thank you.

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:37 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

ttravis12@mac.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### SB2644

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Travis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Puna is a fast growing community with very poor medical care. The State needs to take strong action soon to improve this problem. In a recent medical emergency in this area, it took 90 minutes to deliver the patient to appropriate medical care in Hilo. This time is greater than our Armed Forces accept as a minimum in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is time to take action.

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 12:17 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

lesliewingate7@gmail.com

Subject:

\*Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM\*

#### **SB2644**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing	
Leslie Wingate	Individual	Support	No	

#### Comments:

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 12:37 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

malamaopuna@yahoo.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### **SB2644**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Individual	Support	No ·

Comments: Puna District has a federal designation as a medically underserved area; it also has the fastest growing population in the State. All of Puna is the size of O'ahu and a trip to the Hilo Medical Center can take more than an hour. An EMT Unit with advanced life support capability will save many lives. Please support this. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:19 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

shannonkona@gmail.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### SB2644

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Comments Only	No -

Comments: Support! The Puna District is SO under served, they need our help badly! Please pass this bill!

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:24 PM

**To:** PSMTestimony

Cc: panther\_dave@yahoo.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

SB2644

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As long as there is a company exposing the local residents to the dangers of geothermal energy, the government representing the Puna District of Hawai'l County needs to protect its residents. While you may have vog on your islands, we could experience other joys such as H2S (hydrogen sulfide) and other as vet identified gasses from deep in the bowels of the earth, which our systems are not geared to metabolize. Although those in the drilling industries like to brag about how much H2S they produce and laugh at geothermal people when they go to the training, the residents are neither expecting nor are they prepared for a gas attack (intentional or otherwise, it's an attack) in their community. The facility follows OSHA regs to the letter, but if there is a release of gas, it will cross the property line. Often times someone in the community smells H2S and asks the facility if there was a release, only to be met with no, there wasn't; however after several other inquiries, they usually break down and admit they had a leak. I along with two other members of a group which I belong went on a guided tour of their facility and while in the back area, I spotted a valve that was caked with all manner of corrosion (I had been seagoing Naval aviation. Corrosion was the bane of our existence) and mentioned it to the person driving us around. He said he'd mention it and not long after, they had to change a valve that leaked and we were exposed to a large release of gas. It was probably the one I spotted. People can become ill, there was a report of at least one instance of a spontaneous abortion following the blowout back in 1991. The geothermal facility has an emergency response plan that has at least a dozen options, depending upon the particular situation, but the County has 3 levels, low medium and high. The county has to be able to get their team into a congested area, because our evacuation routes are a joke. There needs to source monitoring at the geothermal facility so we always know how much of what that can be hazardous to our health is coming from underground. The federal EPA should make absolutely certain the geothermal website is on and operating, so when residents go to check it, they have all of the information they require. Hawai'i County needs to be able to provide the emergency services required to its citizens, many who are very young, very old and infirm. We need the money allocated for this contingency.

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 12:12 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

kking@hawaii.rr.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

# SB2644

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Kerrith King	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: I am in favor of SB2644

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 7:50 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

gardenaloha@icloud.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

# SB2644

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Bett Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a resident of the Puna District, I urge your committee to pass SB2644. Despite being one of the fastest growing areas in Hawaii we have no hospital and only one highway to the nearest emergency room in Hilo. We are dependent on the fire department ambulances in the event of life threatening medical emergencies. This grant will truly be life saving for those in my community faced with those circumstances.

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Charlene Dierking <chadierking@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 9:35 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Subject:

SB2644

#### Aloha Senators,

I approve of this bill, as it would add extra medical support for the residents of the Puna district. My son is a firefighter/EMT in Hawaii County and he stated lower Puna is one of the busiest areas that receives 911 calls for medical assistance.

Any added grants would significantly help our fire department, that has to cover a large area with so few personnel and equipment.

Thank you, Charlene Dierking Volcano, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 10:46 PM

To:

PSMTestimony kim@kimnkris.com

Cc: Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### SB2644

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Kornbacher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a resident of the Puna District, I urge your committee to pass SB2644. I understand this bill would make an appropriation for a grant-in-aid to the Hawaii county fire department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna district. We currently have no hospital and only one highway to the nearest emergency room in Hilo. Until a hospital is built, our large, rapidly-growing community is dependent on the fire department ambulances when life threatening medical emergencies occur. The addition of a medical services unit equipped with advanced life support will save lives. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 10:39 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

helenajaya@gmail.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### **SB2644**

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Helena Brandfors	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: As a resident of the Puna District, I urge your committee to pass SB2644. Despite being one of the fastest growing areas in Hawaii we have no hospital and only one highway to the nearest emergency room in Hilo. We are dependent on the fire department ambulances in the event of life threatening medical emergencies. This grant will truly be life saving for those in my community faced with those circumstances.

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**ENETestimony** 

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 11:31 AM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Subject:

FW: In support of SB 2644

----Original Message-----

From: Julie Mitchell [mailto:julesmitch@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 11:07 AM

To: ENETestimony

Subject: In support of SB 2644

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of SB2644. This bill would make an appropriation for a grant-in-aid to the Hawaii county fire department to add an emergency medical services unit equipped with advanced life support to serve the Puna district, in which I live.

Because of the large geographic area of Puna, which has one of the fastest growing populations in the state, having adequate emergency services is crucial.

This measure is scheduled for hearing on February 6. I respectfully ask for your support.

Mahalo nui loa,

Julie Mitchell PO Box 139 Kurtistown, HI 96760

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Friday, January 31, 2014 5:11 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

marshanytes@gmail.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM

#### SB2644

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marsha nytes	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am a nurse, and we are in need of medical services closer to theses Under -served communities. I am for this action and this needs to be done

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Monday, February 03, 2014 5:11 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

ggzfranchini@yahoo.com

Subject:

\*Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM\*

#### **SB2644**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Gina Franchini	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:42 PM

To:

**PSMTestimony** 

Cc:

barklessbrats@yahoo.com

Subject:

\*Submitted testimony for SB2644 on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM\*

# SB2644

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 6, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Louise Butler	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.