

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

MARK K. RIGG  
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015

Re: HB 1063, Relating to Emergency Medical Care

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Service Division, is in strong support of the HB 1063.

The Emergency Medical Service Division responds to 911 calls for emergencies throughout the island of Oahu. We respond to calls and treat life-threatening conditions daily. Our paramedics and EMTs have to take care of people who are hurt and sick in the worst kinds of conditions. When responding to incidents and to the hospitals with lights and sirens, our personnel put themselves at risk every time. Yet everyday, ever paramedic and EMTs go out there and make a difference.

As of today, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Service Division, has 240 uniformed personnel. There are 78 females (32.5%) and 162 males (67.5%) that make up the uniformed personnel.

We have 18 EMS units that are 24-hours, 2 EMS units that are 16-hour units, and 2 non-transport response vehicles that are 16 hours.

The Honolulu District consists of 5 EMS units covering the area from the ocean to the mountain, and west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to east of Ala Liliroi. The average response time is 8 minutes in urban Honolulu.

Over the last 4 years, our total call volume over all has increased 18%. Last year, we responded to 87,557 calls. We transported 52,977. The 5 metropolitan units

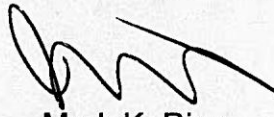
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice-Chair  
February 25, 2015  
Page 2

alone responded to 34,798 calls. That is 40% of the call volume. If you include adjacent units Wailupe and Aiea into that figure, since they are constantly covering the town area, it increases to 52%. Over half of our total call volume is run by 7 units. There is a definite need for another ambulance in the Salt Lake/Moanalua area to help out the town units.

The last time an EMS unit was added to the Metropolitan area was in 2005. The Salt Lake/Moanalua area responded to 4,418 calls in the past year. An additional ambulance would allow for more even distribution of the calls, and decrease overall response times.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, highly support the passage of HB 1063.

Sincerely,



for Mark K. Rigg  
Director



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, February 27, 2015  
TIME OF HEARING: 11:00 a.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY ON HB1063 HD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

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 recognizes the need for additional EMS services in the Moanalua-Aliamanu area, a densely populated area that is currently underserved. This measure will provide for one more emergency services unit to serve the area.

We ask that your committee pass HB1063 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**finance8-Melanie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 6:48 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** csmorimoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1063 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB1063**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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February 24, 2015

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Representatives of the Finance Committee

From: Jacquelyne Howard

Subject: Support of House Bill 1063, Emergency Medical Care

Aloha! My name is Jacquelyne Howard, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly believe in HB 1063, and would like to ask for your support. As it stands at the current time, Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village areas are in need of more Emergency Medical Services. The average time of response according to the National EMS Information System, it takes EMS responders anywhere from 8 to 12 minutes to respond. Without units in the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village areas the response time may be longer in which further endangers the patient. The "Move Over" law requiring motorists to "slow down" and "move over" when approaching emergency vehicles and tow trucks stopped for an emergency or rendering assistance on the side of the road will help to decrease the response time. But, without the sufficient amount of EMS units in the area it will not help as much as it intended.

In April 2014, the Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Division temporarily shut down four units after too many employees called in sick. Kohn2.com reported that the staff shortage resulted in the Waianae and Pawaa units being closed overnight from 11 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday. The Makiki and Waipio units were also closed from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. With the response time already long and units being shut down, people are not getting the proper attention that is required in life or death situations. The more units being shut down due to lack of staff results other units have to travel farther to reach the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village areas.

"Access to health care in Hawaii is in a state of crisis." says Linda Rasmussen, MD, HMA immediate past president and vice president of the Western Orthopedic Association. The nursing and doctoral staff is already in continuous decline looking at 61% of the current staff population to be retiring in 2020. The expansion of medical services needs to be done now while it is still possible that way future generations will be interested and follow in their footsteps.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support House Bill 1063.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 3:36 PM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: speedy\_bailey@amr-ems.com  
 Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1063 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB1063**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov



**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1063 HD 1**  
**Relating to Health**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 27, 2015 11:00 AM Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates \$2,374,237.98 of general funds in fiscal years 2015-2016 and  
2 2016-2017. The measure requests the state Department of Health to assist the city and county of  
3 Honolulu to operate an additional ambulance unit.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive  
5 Budget request for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

6 The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing health care and  
7 emergency services to the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village  
8 Communities. The Department is projecting a shortfall in general funds to fund the existing  
9 ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17. Funding an additional unit would have  
10 a negative impact on existing services.

11 This measure seeks to augment the City and County emergency medical services system  
12 for the residents and visitors of the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village  
13 areas. The Honolulu City and County Emergency Medical Services currently operates 20 ground  
14 ambulances on the island of Oahu. The last unit added was Ewa Beach in fiscal year 2013.  
15 Honolulu City and County has budgeted funds to secure and administer a backup 911 contract  
16 with American Medical Response to aid with increased 911 calls.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.