

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

WRITTEN  
ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1616  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Hearing Date: Wed., February 3, 2016 10:00 AM Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure repeals the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and  
2 increases the allocation of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) to the counties to fund  
3 lifeguards and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel in sufficient numbers to ensure  
4 public safety. If the EMS special fund now provided to the Department of Health (DOH) to  
5 partially fund statewide contracts for EMS and training for emergency medical technicians and  
6 mobile intensive care technicians (paramedics) is eliminated, then DOH will not have sufficient  
7 funding in fiscal year 2017 and beyond to continue existing contracts for EMS and training at the  
8 current level. Providing funds directly to the counties for EMS personnel will bifurcate the  
9 current statewide EMS system and funding model. Additionally, directing funds to the counties  
10 for personnel will eliminate the State's ability to bill and collect for EMS patient care services  
11 (projected deposits to General Funds in FY 2017 are \$39.6 million).

12 **Department Testimony:** The DOH joins the Legislature's desire for an efficient and responsive  
13 EMS system to address public safety needs as they arise in the counties. The State of Hawaii  
14 Emergency Medical Services system provides comprehensive 911 response to every part of the  
15 State, serving residents and visitors with access to high quality pre-hospital emergency care. The  
16 system consists of 3 major components: highly trained personnel, equipment, and statewide  
17 communications and pre-hospital electronic medical record system. Emergency services are  
18 delivered through contracts with providers in each of Hawaii's four major counties. Funding is  
19 from the EMS Special Fund and General Fund appropriated and allocated to DOH. It is unknown  
20 whether all EMS personnel needs would be met by eliminating the EMS Special Fund and  
21 directing funds to the counties from the TAT funds.

1 FY 2017 appropriations for Hawaii EMS are: EMS Special Fund - \$14,041,796 and General  
2 Fund - \$60,810,177 for a total of \$74,851,973. EMS personnel budgeted expenses for FY 2017  
3 are \$54,715,001. The EMS Special Fund also funds DOH contracts with UH, Kapiolani  
4 Community College for: 1) EMT and Paramedic training on Maui, Kauai and Hawaii  
5 (\$149,480), and 2) EMS Paramedic training stipends enabling neighbor island EMS students to  
6 travel to Honolulu for necessary clinical training (\$240,000). Elimination of the EMS Special  
7 Fund and directly funding the counties would have the unintended consequence of interrupting  
8 EMS personnel services throughout the state as of July 1, 2016 until new county based systems  
9 were implemented; and will eliminate DOH's ability to bill for EMS patient care services.

10 In addition, funding to UH, Kapiolani for training would be eliminated unless the General Fund  
11 was increased for these needed services. If the EMS Special fund is repealed and personnel funds  
12 are directed to the four major counties, then DOH patient billing and collection services would  
13 end and the State would not receive billing reimbursements that are currently deposited into the  
14 State General Fund (projected FY 2017: \$39.6 million).

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND  
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
TOURISM**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1616  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES**

House Bill 1616 proposes to change the total county allocation under the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) to fund lifeguard and emergency medical services personnel positions in the counties and repeals the emergency medical services special fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure which amends Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, (HRS) to establish funding via Section 237-6.5(b)(4), HRS, for county water safety personnel and emergency medical services personnel in sufficient numbers to ensure public safety at beaches.**

In 2015, there were increases in the incidences of ocean related injuries and response rates and there is a high percentage of visitors that, due to a lack of knowledge, skill, and experience in Hawaiian waters, need the support of water safety personnel. There is a compelling nexus to use the TAT revenue for this purpose. In addition, the Department contracts with the four counties for water safety personnel and the following State Beach Parks:

Haena State Park, Kauai (Ke'e)	Cost: \$200,065	Funding Source: General
Kaena Point State Park, Oahu (Keawaula)	Cost: \$584,216	Funding Source: Special
Makena State Park, Maui	Cost: \$606,469	Funding Source: General
Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area, Hawaii	Cost: \$465,785	Funding Source: Special

Total: \$1,856,535

In the interest of cost savings for the Department and to consolidate the funding mechanism for water safety personnel statewide, the Department offers the following amendments on page 2, line 4, for your consideration:

“§46- Lifeguard; emergency medical services personnel. (a) Each county shall employ and maintain lifeguards and emergency medical services personnel in sufficient numbers to ensure public safety at state park and county beaches.”

The Department would continue to enter into memorandum of agreements with the counties for the services but with no cost since these amendments would cover the costs of services. The Department appreciates and needs this working relationship with the counties, as we do not have water safety personnel and the beach parks listed above are heavily visited by out-of-state visitors, so the nexus to use the TAT for this purpose is warranted.

Testimony against H.B. No. 1616 relating to Emergency Services.  
Before the Committee on Tourism  
Rep. Tom Brower, Chair  
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, February 3, 2016

As the Chair for our statewide EMS training program, one of my responsibilities include all initial EMT and Paramedic training for those seeking employment on ambulances. With this I have classrooms on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island. We have been providing this training for 25 years or more and we have been nationally recognized for excellence in training. Our students have consistently ranked in the top tier with regard to national certification testing.

The Emergency Medical Service Special Fund significantly supports this important training.

With this I believe H.B. 1616 will negatively impact EMS training, especially for those on neighbor islands where funds from the EMS Special Fund plays a particularly important role. If the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund were to be abolished with no alternative plan suggested, training at **all** sites may not be supported.

This is particularly significant considering many in our statewide EMS workforce is at the retirement age. Thus reducing funding for this critical endeavor, especially in a time that will require increased training to meet the expected increase in workforce reduction due in part to retirement, will affect the ability of our statewide Emergency Medical Service System in providing the required and critically important training.

With this, and for other reasons, I cannot support this Bill.

Finally, the opinions expressed are solely my own and do not express the views or opinions of my employer.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Jeff Zuckernick, Professor  
Department Chair – Emergency Medical Services  
Kapi'olani Community College  
4303 Diamond Head Road, Kauila 121  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
zuckerni@hawaii.edu  
808-734-9288

**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**Darren J. Rosario**  
*Fire Chief*

**Renwick J. Victorino**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Tourism  
State Capitol, Room 414  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

**Subject: HB 1616, RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2016**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 312**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department, County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The HCFD opposes HB 1616 which proposes to shift the responsibility for funding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Lifeguards from the State to the counties. It further proposes to increase the transient accommodations tax (TAT) as an appropriate way for the counties to fund these positions.

The HCFD is the primary 911 emergency provider of EMS services to our 150,000 plus residents and 1.7 million annual average visitors. The HCFD also provides Ocean Safety Water Safety Officers (lifeguards) at the State's Hāpuna Beach Park. Hāpuna is the Island's most popular beaches. The HCFD was funded in this current fiscal year by the State Department of Health to provide EMS Services in the amount of 14.3 million dollars. The HCFD was funded in this current fiscal year by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide lifeguard services to the Hāpuna State Beach Park in the amount of 0.4 million dollars.

The HCFD has continuously provided optimum EMS and lifeguard services above and beyond the funding it receives from the State. Currently, the field of EMS requires staffing to conduct billing and regulatory compliance matters. These matters are currently managed by the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention (EMSIP) branch. The HCFD does not have staffing to manage the billing and regulatory requirements of EMS. Furthermore, in Hawai'i County, there exist several State beach parks that currently are not protected by lifeguards. Shifting the responsibility to the county after years of the State not providing coverage should not be forced upon the County. Proper protection of these beach parks would require additional funding and positions.



The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair

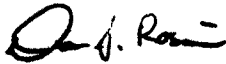
Page 2

February 2, 2016

The County of Hawai'i received only 19.1 million dollars of TAT Funding in this current fiscal year. That amount is nearly the amount of funding we receive through the emergency medical services special fund, §321-234. In order for the HCFD to be accountable as the provider of EMS and lifeguard services, the State must provide for adequate additional funding through the TAT at an additional amount of at least 15 million dollars to maintain current services. The unknown is the cost of the additional personnel required for EMS support office staff and the required lifeguard staff as well for each county. This would require that the State and Counties collaboratively study the actual cost of shifting the burden to the counties. The Counties should not have to undertake this burden without a substantial cost estimate study being completed.

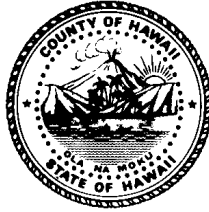
The HCFD urges you to deny HB 1616. Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or [Darren.Rosario@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Darren.Rosario@hawaiicounty.gov) should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren J. Rosario". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief

**Karen Eoff**  
Council Member  
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 29, 2016

House Committee on Tourism  
Representative Tom Brower, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
415 South Beretania Street  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Email: TOUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Email: repbrower@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Email: repohno@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony In Support of HB1616; Relating to Emergency Services  
Hearing Date: February 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 312

Dear House Committee on Tourism:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced bill is hereby expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

Changing the total county allocation under the transient accommodations tax to fund lifeguard and emergency medical services personnel positions in the counties is appropriate and necessary. I agree, that shifting responsibility for funding these positions from the State to the county will enable efficient and responsive action to address public safety as the need arises.

I urge enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

---

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,  
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb



# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, TOBACCO, County Responsibility for EMS

BILL NUMBER: HB 1616

INTRODUCED BY: LOWEN, JOHANSON, KOBAYASHI, C. LEE, LUKE, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, ONISHI, SAIKI, TAKAYAMA, LoPresti, Yamashita

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Repeals the emergency medical services (EMS) special fund, shifts responsibility for EMS personnel and lifeguards to the counties, and increases the allocation from the TAT to pay for them. Efficiency is increased, and transparency is enhanced, by killing off this special fund and the tax earmarks that feed it.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 46 requiring each county to employ and maintain lifeguards and EMS personnel to ensure public safety. Provides an increased allocation from the TAT of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Repeals the EMS special fund in HRS section 321-234. Repeals the earmarks in the tobacco tax and the county vehicular tax that presently feed the EMS special fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016.

STAFF COMMENTS: The EMS special fund, codified in HRS section 321-234, was created by Act 158, SLH 2004, to provide funds for operation of an enhanced and expanded state comprehensive emergency medical services system. Act 158 also amended HRS section 249-31 to raise the state vehicle registration fee by five dollars per vehicle, with the resulting revenues to be deposited into the EMS special fund. Act 102, SLH 2007 Legislature, earmarked part of the tobacco tax to be deposited to the EMS special fund.

According to the recitals in the bill, when a need arises in a county for additional public safety services such as lifeguards and emergency medical technicians, the counties are typically the first to recognize the need, and then must subsequently appeal to the state legislature to respond to the identified need. Shifting the responsibility for funding these positions from the State to the counties will enable more efficient and responsive action to address public safety needs as they arise.

Whenever special funds are paired with earmarking of revenues, the legislature is in effect preapproving each of the programs fed by the funds into which the earmarked tax monies are diverted, expenses from the funds largely avoid legislative scrutiny, and the effectiveness of the programs funded becomes harder to ascertain. It is also difficult to determine whether the funds have too little or too much revenue. The effect of this bill is to get rid of a special fund and the earmarks that feed it, which is a good step toward government transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Digested 1/29/2016

Testimony: HB1616: Relating to EMS

I am Tito Villanueva, Operations Manager for American Medical Response (AMR) in Kauai County. I support the intent of the TAT monies to shore-up lifeguard staffing statewide that would make our beaches accessible and safer by allowing counties to continue posting lifeguards at state beach parks and even 'supplement' EMS funds. However, currently there is no vehicle or contract with American Medical Response and the Counties of Kauai and Maui to utilize the TAT EMS funds at this time. I urge your committee to deny this bill.

This measure HB1616 repeals the EMS Special Fund, shorting Kauai County EMS by \$1,132,060.00. In addition, it repeals funds allocated to the University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College for EMT and Paramedic training. Numerous paramedic students have benefited from the training stipends, which enabled Kauai County EMS students to travel to Honolulu for the necessary training.

If these EMS special funds provided to the Department of Health (DOH) to fund Kauai County contract for EMS with AMR are eliminated, and not replaced immediately with another source of funds, the DOH will not have sufficient funding in fiscal year 2017 and beyond for these existing "essential services". This could cause an immediate disruption in the delivery of Kauai County emergency medical services.

The State Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System (EMSIPS) regulate and govern statewide EMS so that quality Advance Life Support care is the same statewide. The residents and visitors to Kauai County have benefitted tremendously from the EMS Special Fund. Diverting monies to the counties could divide and disrupt a well-developed, comprehensive and experienced EMS System.

I urge you to please deny this bill from moving forward. Thank you.

Testimony: HB1616: Relating to EMS

My name is Curt Morimoto and I've been working in EMS for the past (40) yrs. and I am the Operations Manager for American Medical Response (AMR) in Maui County for the past (22) yrs.

The residents & visitors to Maui County have benefitted from quality Emergency Medical Services provided by the State of Hawaii and American Medical Response. Together and in collaboration with the Hawaii State Legislature the Maui County EMS System has grown from three (3) ambulance stations to (11) ambulance stations and (1) rotor wing Medevac.

The STATE Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System (EMSIPS) regulate and govern statewide EMS so that quality Advanced Life Support care is matched across the State.

Maui County has benefitted tremendously from the EMS Special Fund which has supported the addition of EMS units in Wailea, Maalaea and the Maui Medevac. This measure HB 1616 repeals the EMS Special Fund, shorting Maui County EMS by \$3,947,018.00. In addition, it repeals funds allocated to the UH, Kapiolani Community College for EMT and Paramedic training. Numerous paramedic students have benefitted from the training stipends, which enabled Maui County EMS students to travel to Honolulu for the necessary clinical training.

If these EMS special funds provided to the Department of Health (DOH) to fund Maui Counties contract for EMS with AMR are eliminated, and not replaced immediately with another source of funds, the DOH will not have sufficient funding in fiscal year 2017 and beyond for these existing "essential" services. This could cause an immediate disruption in the delivery of Maui County EMS.

I support the intent of the TAT monies to shore-up lifeguard staffing statewide and even to 'supplement' EMS funds. However, currently there is no vehicle or contract with American Medical Response and the counties of Maui and Kauai to utilize the TAT EMS funds at this time. Diverting monies to the counties could divide and disrupt a well-developed, comprehensive and experienced EMS System.

I urge you to please deny this bill from moving forward. Thank you.

Curt S. Morimoto  
American Medical Response  
230 Hana Highway, Suite #12-B  
Kahului, Hawaii 96732  
(808) 871-2153

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 1:21 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** speedy\_bailey@amr-ems.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 12:57 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** andy.ancheta@amr.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andy Ancheta	American Medical Response	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:05 AM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** tiffany.lightfoot@amr.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiffany Lightfoot	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** gailm808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gail Miyahira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** mnotestone@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Notestone	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I disapprove of this bill. Maui County does not employ EMS personnel.  
Mahalo, Michele Notestone MICT

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**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** jkimmel5959@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james kimmel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 7:26 AM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** okazaki@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Okazaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 12:09 AM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** terencematsuo@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
terence matsuo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Maui county does not hire EMS personal, MICT and EMT's. American medical response AMR west does. We need funding for Medic stations in Kihei Medic 14 and Maalaea Medic 15 which the Maui county will not fund if funds are given to each county.

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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 10:43 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** drichardson7@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danh Richardson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am a paramedic for AMR in Maui County. I work at Medic 15, a 1 man special response vehicle. This unit has saved numerous lives that had time sensitive medical issues. It would be detrimental to the community to repeal the emergency medical services special funds, losing 2 ambulance stations and the medevac in Maui county. I highly oppose HB1616.

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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**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** maren.anka@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maren Anka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a member of EMS, I strongly oppose removing the financial backing for emergency medical services special fund.

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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 4:21 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** david@kingdonconsulting.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Kingdon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am a paramedic supervisor and EMS educator in Maui. I do also have some experience with the state legislative process. After a careful reading of this bill, I not only write to oppose it, but recommend that HB1616 be withdrawn. While I trust that those introducing the legislation had good intentions, thus they must not have realized that this bill would effectively dismantle our EMS system. Existing EMS assets would be jeopardized, and there would be great disparities between counties' readiness for maintaining or expanding their paramedic services.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 3:06 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** cllahm@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Candace Lahm	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am sure that passing this bill will have a detrimental effect on the EMS system in Maui County, possibly losing us two of our much needed ground ambulance stations and our 911 medevac which is a vital resource for our county. Please vote against this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 1:59 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** Sauweloa@hhsc.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Auwelo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 1:24 PM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** csmorimoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: EMS Special Funds have benefited many residents & visitors in Maui County. PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL!!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** TOUtestimony  
**Cc:** kapena\_hill@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for TOU on Feb 3, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kapena hill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in opposition to HB1616. I have been an EMT/Paramedic here for over 24 years. We are not funder or employed by the county here in Maui and we never have been. We work for a private company that was awarded a contract by the state to provide the services that we do. While there may be counties like Honolulu and Hawaii county that are county run EMS, Maui and Kauai are not. Taking away this fund would likely result in the loss of our medevac helicopter here, our special/rapid responses unit, our Kula ambulance and our Wailea ambulance which are all funded through it, not to mention what it will do to the other EMS systems in the state. I do not understand the rationale for this bill and it is very obvious that the legislator who wrote and introduced this bill has absolutely no clue as to how EMS works not only in her county, but the entire state. The special fund has allotted monies to provide valuable lifesaving services throughout the state of Hawaii for both residents and visitors alike. If you take this away, to take away the safety and well being of everyone within the state's boundaries. You will make it unsafe to visit here, you will increase mortality and morbidity rates from survivable incidents, and you will decrease the already dangerously low number of emergency medical resources we currently have within the state of Hawaii. Please do not let this underinvestigated, overzealous, dangerous bill pass another hearing. Please amend or stop this bill before it becomes a nail in the coffin for our EMS system and countless patients who will lose because of it. Thank you Kapena Hill MICT/Paramedic kapena\_hill@yahoo.com

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## TOUtestimony

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From: apgragas@hawaiiantel.net  
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:47 PM  
To: TOUtestimony  
Cc: Curt.Morimoto@emsc.net  
Subject: Testimony on HB1616

Dear Committee on Tourism,

I was just made aware of HB1616 and its possible diversion of funds.

Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd at 1000 hrs., conference room 312.

Had tried to make an online testimony but was taken to an error message with three other options of submitting a testimony.

Am currently a Paramedic Supervisor with American Medical Response on Maui which provides 911 emergency prehospital care.

HB1616 has greatly provided to the capability of our EMS community here within Maui County.

Funded has impacted our Maui Medevac helicopter stationed at Kahului Airport, Medic-14 Wailea Station and most recently Medic-15 Maalaea which is a rapid response vehicle that assists several districts.

Our working relationship with the Police, Fire and Ocean Safety Departments are close.

Would this bill solely fund Ocean Safety?

Had some difficulty looking up HB1616 online.

I would not be in favor of eliminating the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund .

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Gragas, MICT

American Medical Response Medic One Wailuku Station

285 Mahalani St., Wailuku 96793

808-244-4653