

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



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LATE

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT

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March 17, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
The State Senate,
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker:

Subject: HB1874, HD1 Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services

I am Robert F. Westerman Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD supports HB 1874, HD 1, which makes an appropriation for emergency medical services.

American Medical Response (AMR) provides ambulance services on Kauai, serving residents and visitors with access to high quality pre-hospital emergency care through a contract with Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch. Passage of HB 1874, HD 1, would add significantly to the level of care to our visitors and residents as well as having faster response time during their emergency needs. Pre-hospital emergency medical response has been increasing and continues to increase due to Kauai's population growth, aging demographic and an increase in the number of households and visitors.

The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. There have been no additional rapid response or ambulance units since. It is anticipated that Kauai's population demographic will change and include an aging population over the next few years. This increase demand for services requires additional resources. The North Shore of Kauai is a large district which covers Moloaa, Kilauea, Princeville, Hanalei, Wainiha, and Ke'e Beach Park. Outside the Kilauea Unit, the nearest ambulance station is located Kapaa. The timeline to reach the only acute hospital on Kauai can be forty minutes or more. Similarly, the ambulance unit on the west district covers Eleele, Hanapepe, Kaumakani, Waimea, Kekaha, Polihale Beach Park, and up Kokee State Park. Response and transport times to the only Level 3 trauma center on Kauai may even take longer. If the ambulance that responds to a call for emergency medical service

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair

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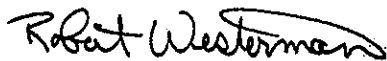
must respond from an out-of-district location, the response time is even longer. The movement of ambulances with patients from their own district creates a domino effect of lack of emergency medical services to other areas.

A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual. AMR has been continuously providing optimum EMS services above and beyond the funding it receives from the State. During flashflood conditions where Hanalei Bridge is closed, AMR provides additional ambulance unit to cover the Hanalei to Ke'e areas at no cost to the County or State. A rapid response unit complements and adds to the existing resources that Kauai already has. It will help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors by providing immediate response to what was outlined previously.

The KFD urges your committee's passage of HB 1874, HD1 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services Rapid Response Unit for Kauai.

Please call me at (808) 241-4975 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

LATE

baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 12:58 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1874 on Mar 18, 2016 09:30AM*

Categories: Late

HB1874

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for CPH/PSM on Mar 18, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	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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