

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



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April 4, 2016

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and MEans
The State Senate,
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda:

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

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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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rmierrol@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1874 on Apr 4, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 5:13:29 PM

HB1874

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Errol S. McGowan	American Medical Response (Kauai)	Support	Yes

Comments: I live here on Kauai's north shore, and work as a Paramedic for AMR. I see every day as a resident of the north shore the need for increased resources such as a Rapid Response, and/or A entire new station. island wide our resources are taxed every day, with the underestimated visitor info, and residence. i for one have had an emergency and needed Advanced life support and they were coming from Lihue to the North shore. Having an Advanced Life support Rapid Response Unit would greatly benefit the island of Kauai. Sincerely Errol S. McGowan

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
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1874 on Apr 4, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 7:28:21 PM

HB1874

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobby Brinkley	Kauai Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am an Emergency Medical Technician on the island of Kauai and member of the Kauai Paramedic Association. I am in full support of HB 1874. I believe that providing an Emergency Rapid Response vehicle will greatly enhance 911 services and bring much needed Advanced Medical LIFE SUPPORT and care to areas where the primary ambulance is not readily available secondary to high emergency call volume at any given time. I appreciate your consideration of this bill and hope for your full support of this much needed asset to our island . Aloha and Mahalo, Bobby Brinkley

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