



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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1875
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: Mon, February 8, 2016 3pm Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully defers to the Governor's
2 Executive Budget for the DOH's appropriations and personnel priorities. HB 1875 requests an
3 unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2016-2017 be appropriated to the DOH,
4 Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch for an ambulance unit to
5 include vehicle, personnel, and equipment.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
7 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding communities of Kauai. This
8 measure seeks to augment the Kauai emergency medical services system for the county's
9 residents and visitors. DOH contracts and funds a private ambulance service provider to operate
10 5 ground ambulances on Kauai.

11 Using data from the DOH pre-hospital emergency medical database, we examined county
12 ambulance response times for the 6-year period 2010-2015. Hanalei area (Zip code 96714)
13 consistently exceeded the mandated DOH contract response time of 20 minutes or less. We
14 found that over the 6-year period 34% of the Hanalei responses exceeded the mandated 20
15 minute threshold. Adding an ambulance and personnel resources might improve these 911
16 response times and allow for optimizing resources countywide.

17 The additional requested vehicle, personnel, and equipment are not in the DOH's FY 2016-2017
18 budget. Should the legislature wish to increase Kauai EMS resources, then the requisite funds
19 would need to be added to the DOH budget for FY 2016-2017 and beyond.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

21 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

February 08, 2016 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 1875

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support** of HB 1875 which makes an emergency appropriation for emergency medical services for a 24 hour, 7 days a week ambulance unit for the County of Kauai. Timely access to life-saving health care is essential for all communities. The availability of ambulances and emergency medical personnel are critical components to making sure patients are transported to hospitals as quickly as possible and greatly improves outcomes. The appropriation provided in this measure will enhance the delivery of emergency medical services and remove some of the barriers to obtaining needed services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





February 08, 2016 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich
CEO, Wilcox Memorial Hospital

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 1875

My name is Jen Chahanovich and I am the chief executive officer of Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Memorial Hospital is a not-for-profit hospital dedicated to providing the Kaua'i community with accessible, quality health care. Wilcox is the largest medical facility on Kaua'i and has been recognized as one of the nation's best small hospitals. With 185 physicians on staff, Wilcox Memorial Hospital offers island residents and visitors expert diagnosis and treatment for more than 22 specialties. It is a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a full suite of services including emergency, OB/GYN, pediatrics, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pulmonology, nephrology, orthopedics, neurology, internal medicine and family practice.

I am writing in **support** of HB 1875 which makes an emergency appropriation for emergency medical services for a 24 hour, 7 days a week ambulance unit for the County of Kauai. Timely access to life-saving health care is essential for all communities. The availability of ambulances and emergency medical personnel are critical components to making sure patients are transported to hospitals as quickly as possible and greatly improves outcomes. The appropriation provided in this measure will enhance the delivery of emergency medical services and remove some of the barriers to obtaining needed services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 2:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tito.villanueva@amr.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1875 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB1875

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tito Villanueva	American Medical Response	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 8, 2016

To: The Honorable Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

Re: HB 1875: Relating to EMS

My name is Speedy Bailey and I've been working in EMS for the past (40) yrs. and I am the General Manager for American Medical Response (AMR) in Hawaii.

I am in strong support of HB 1875. AMR provides 911 response 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 1875 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 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.

I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB 1875 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for Kauai.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 5:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1875 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB1875

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 2:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cody.bonilla@amr.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1875 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB1875

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Bonilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 5, 2016

Strongly Support HB1875

I am Tito Villanueva, Operations Manager/EMS Chief for American Medical Response (AMR), County of Kauai, strongly in support of H.B. 1875. AMR provides 911 response to every part of 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 H.B. 1875 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 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.

I respectfully urge your committee's passage of H.B. 1875 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for the County of Kauai. Please contact me should you have any question regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Tito Villanueva
Kauai AMR Operations Manager
4480 Kuene St
Lihue, HI 96766
Email: tito.villanueva@amr.net

Office: 808.245.4675
Cell: 808.639.3819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 5:34 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1875 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB1875

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please SUPPORT HB 1875 which is the necessary companion to HB 1874. On Kaua`i, we have a considerable distance between our communities and the hospital with essentially one road to get us there. With basically one north shore ambulance, we have a serious problem when there are multiple accidents or crises. The other side of the island probably faces similar challenges. This funding for additional ambulance and emergency response team members is needed and valuable.

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