

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2434 HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: Fri, February 26, 2016 11am Room Number: 308

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 2434 HD1 requests
3 an 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 emergency medical
5 ambulance unit to 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 community of Puna. This measure
8 seeks to augment the Hawaii County emergency medical services system for the residents and
9 visitors of the Island of Hawaii. DOH contracts and funds the Hawaii County Fire Department
10 to operate 15 ground ambulances and 1 medical helicopter on the Island of Hawaii.

11 Using data from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database, we examined ambulance response times
12 for the Puna area by Zip code (96778) for the 6-year period 2010-2015. The mandated DOH
13 contract response time for this area is 20 minutes or less. We found that over the 6-year period
14 16% of the responses exceeded the mandatory 20 minute threshold. Adding an additional
15 ambulance unit and personnel resources might improve these 911 response times and allow for
16 optimizing resources countywide.

17 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch is meeting with all of
18 Hawaii's emergency service providers to review the current deployment of 911 ambulance
19 resources statewide and determine the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the
20 continuing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

- 1 The additional requested vehicle, personnel, and equipment are not in the DOH's fiscal year
- 2 2016-2017 budget. Should the Legislature wish to increase the Hawaii County EMS resources,
- 3 the requisite funds would need to be added to the DOH budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 and
- 4 beyond.

- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KĪLAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908
(808) 934-3403
(808) 934-3503

WEST HAWAII UNIT
81-980 HALEKĪ'I ST, SUITE 150
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2434

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee on Finance, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 2434.

This measure appropriates funds to establish and staff an advanced life support medic unit in Puna on the Island of Hawai'i and for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for North Kona.

Puna has become the fastest growing district in the State, with a current population of more than 45 thousand residents. In 2014-2015, Puna tallied 5,256 EMS calls – that is more than 30% of all 911 calls in Hawai'i County. To compound this, the round trip time from response to back in quarters on a patient transport is approximately two hours. It has become common for the two ambulances that serve the bulk of Puna's population to have ten or more transports in a 24-hour shift – this means the EMS personnel can literally be on the road for nearly 24 consecutive hours. There is a very real potential for a serious incident due to fatigue or errors in judgment.

For many of the residents in Makalei, primary care services can be as many as thirty miles away, thus, EMS has become their access point for health care. The Makalei Fire Station, opened in 2013 was never staffed with an Advance Life Support team to serve the area residents with EMS needs. This area is also one of the fastest growing districts in Hawai'i. Given the current circumstances, patients who have a serious injury of illness in which their treatment is time sensitive have the odds stacked against them.

EMS response time significantly impacts the overall delivery time of the patient to definitive treatment at an emergency room. According to the National Fire Protection Association, which creates standards for Fire Service, an EMS Medic Unit must respond to a scene within eight minutes. As stated in the testimony above, the current quota of ambulances

cannot meet those requirements. These advanced life support ambulances will be literal life savers for the residents in Puna and Makalei, and to the visitors of Hawai'i Island.

For these reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 2434. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: HB 2434, HD 1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES
Hearing Date: Monday, February 26, 2016
Time/Place of Hearing: 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke:

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 2434, HD 1 to make an appropriation for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to be based in the Puna District

The District of Puna is roughly the size of the Island of Kauai, has a population of 45,326 and has become one of the fastest growing districts in the State of Hawai'i with a population increase of 44% since 2000. Over the next 15 years the population of Puna is expected to grow to 75,000, nearly half the current population of Hawai'i Island.

The EMS needs of the residents of Puna are centrally served by HFD Medic's 5 and 10 out of the Kea'au and Pahoa Fire stations respectively. These units are strategically based to serve the bulk of Puna's population handling 91% of EMS calls in Puna. Medic 19 out of the Volcano Fire Station serves a less populated area of Puna but fills a wide geographical gap (45 miles) between Kea'au and Ka'u.

The volume of EMS calls have crept up year by year with no increase in EMS services to the Puna district; with the projected population increase this will no doubt continue and impact our ability to deliver high quality EMS services. As mentioned 911 EMS cases in Puna account for more than 30% of all 911 calls in Hawai'i County, to compound this, the round trip time from response to back in quarters on a patient transport is approximately two hours. It is become common for Medics 5 and 10 to have ten or more transports in a twenty-four hour shift the resulting simple math means; our personnel can essentially be on the road for nearly twenty-four consecutive hours. As a result the potential for fatigue, errors in judgment,



The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke

Page 2

February 24, 2016

driving and overall safety are of great concern for our personnel. In addition, the Puna District continues to be under constant threat of lava and remains extremely vulnerable.

- In 2007-2008 the Puna district accounted for 3,970 or 21% of all EMS calls in the County of Hawai'i.
- In 2013-2014 the Puna district accounted for 5,149 calls or 27% of all EMS calls in the County of Hawai'i.
- In 2014 – 2015 the Puna district accounted for 5,256 calls or 30% of all EMS calls in County of Hawai'i.

Access to primary health care in Puna is challenging for the community, for many Puna residents primary care services are as much as 30 miles away, coupled with economic and transportation challenges EMS has become the access point for health care to many in Puna. This will be even more dominant in the face of isolation from the lava flow event.

This increase in Puna's call volume is also having a collateral impact on two of our departments busiest units located in Hilo (Medic's 1 and 3) who respond to a combined 34 % of all Hawai'i County 911 EMS calls. Medic's 1 and 3 cover the Puna District when the Puna units are unavailable. Since 2007 there has been a 50% increase in responses from Medics 1 and 3 into the Puna District and there are numerous times when the majority of our East Hawai'i EMS assets Medics 1, 3, 5, 10, 19 are all covering calls in the Puna District leaving the most populated area (Hilo) without adequate services.

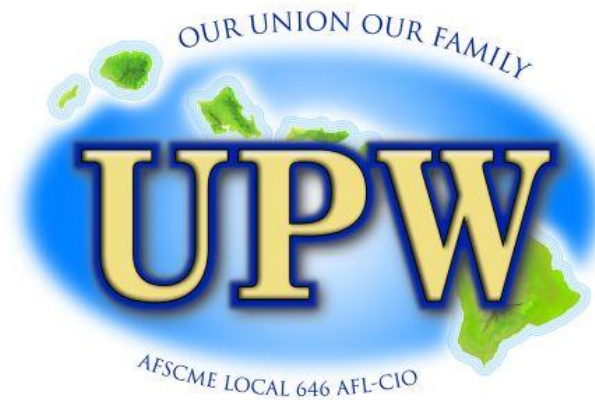
This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to Puna (with collateral effects in Hilo), its needs based on the impending lava flow induced isolation, and aiding our department in maintaining the highest level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-932-2903 or darren.rosario@co.hawaii.hi.us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, February 26, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB2434, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 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 purpose of HB 2434, HD1 is to provide emergency medical services to the expanding community of Puna and to augment the County of Hawaii emergency medical services system for residents and visitors of the island of Hawaii by appropriating funds to establish and staff an advanced life support medic unit in Puna on the island of Hawaii. The UPW **supports** this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ecabatu@hhsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, consisting of Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua and Ka`u Hospital, please accept this organizational support for HB2434. Mahalo.

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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Hawaiian Shores Community Association

15-2793 S. HONU STREET PAHOA, HAWAII 96778

PHONE (808) 965-8140 FAX (808) 965-0802

EMAIL: hsca@hawaii.rr.com

www.hawaiianshores.org

Feb. 24, 2016

To: Committee on Finance – House of Representatives
Chair Sylvia Luke
Hearing; Feb. 26, 2016 @ 11AM

RE: HB 2434 – Relating to Health

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

We appreciate that you have scheduled this measure for hearing and support this legislation. As a community of 1294 residential lots in lower Puna, we are well aware of the lack of emergency medical services in our area. Further, with only one transportation artery (State Hwy 130) in and out of this district which is home to over ten thousand residents, ambulances have a difficult time reaching the hospital in Hilo in a timely manner. We strongly support having additional services for the Puna area as too many situations have resulted in fatalities that could have been avoided with a more timely response.

To that end, our community **strongly encourages support** of this bill which is a step forward in providing essential services that are very much needed in the district of Puna. Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara

Eileen O'Hara, President
Board of Directors, Hawaiian Shores Community Assn.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:34 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Malama O Puna	Support	No

Comments: Malama O Puna is a Hawaii nonprofit environmental organization. In 2014 we wrote a successful (FONSI)Environmental Assessment for Puna Community Medical Center's plan to build a free-standing emergency room in Pahoehoe. In the EA we noted the fact that the entire Island of Hawaii has a federal designation as being a Medically Underserved Area (MUA)with provider shortages. The lack is especially bad in Puna District, which has a population growth rate of 24%. Puna is the size of O'ahu, and many of its roads are unimproved (dirt). When that is combined with the large distances between homes and the Hilo Medical Center, it sometimes takes as long as two hours for a patient to arrive at the ER. Sometimes that's too long and the patient is DOA. This is not acceptable. The district has only one ambulance. If it is down for maintenance, or on another call, the ambulance in Kea'au or Hilo may respond - but if they are also on call, or if there are multiple calls back-to-back, then the "golden hour" goes by. The unfortunate patient waits in pain and his/her condition worsens. Puna desperately needs another ambulance. Lives depend on it. You have a moral duty to support this bill - please do so. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: peacepurpose@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Taylor	Brave Ventures	Support	No

Comments: Please pass HB 2434. Not only is Puna an ever growing community, we are the islands farmers, caregivers, nurses, disabled veterans, school teachers and people who service Hawaii. With the depressed economy many people cannot afford to repair cars. So many residents vehicles were totaled in the 2014 hurricane and wind storms. We have a health care crisis here. With the Ormat geothermal plant out of compliance, and with such large incidents of kidney disease we need Medical Support in Puna. Along with ambulances we need a medical center with both pharmacy and lab under the same roof. While our community is poor, we support a booming group of people with money, investors and snow birds, who could help fund a private (non state) hospital. Please help us. Thank you! Sarah Taylor, Business Owner/Patient Advocate/Patient

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fsayre@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Frank H. Sayre, D.D.S.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 2434 HD1. Our Island population is growing rapidly and the number of EMS calls are increasing exponentially. The Kailua-Kona ambulance is the most called on the Island and the areas it has to cover leaves people living in North Kona vulnerable to delayed response time. The Puna district is huge and the population spread out. It is not uncommon for the ambulance in the area to be on the road for an entire shift putting citizens at risk.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: michaelkaleikini@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Kaleikini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke and committee members of the Finance COmmittee. I strongly support HB2434 (HD1). Advanced life support medic units on Hawai'i Island is severely lacking. Please pass HB 2434 (HD1) which would appropriate funds to establish and staff an advanced life support medic unit for Puna on the Island of Hawaii and for emergency medical services for North Kona. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: viviansuet@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Increased population, means increased need for services. A smart planning matter, and no surprise really. The subdivisions of Puna are going to need more and more, that is just a fact. More roads, more schools, more health care, and the list goes on. As a 10+ year resident of a Puna Subdivision, I plan to remain here, and have seen about a 50% increase in traffic and housing, already. The majority of baby boomers are just starting to retire and move to this piece of Paradise. So do not plan to fail, put plan and act now while cost are low and the situation manageable. Aloha & Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:37 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: franny234@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM*

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franny Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mdionne@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Dionne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the funding of additional personnel and ambulances for the District of Puna. Puna has grown significantly over the 30 years that I lived here. Wait times for an ambulance to reach the seriously injured and sick from Keaau or Hilo is too long and puts lives at risk. One ambulance and crew is insufficient for the number of people and the size of Puna to be effective. Sincerely, Michael Dionne

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From: Steph Bath <stephbath@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 7:44 PM
To: FINTestimony; sanbuenaventura2 - Valerie
Subject: Ambulance for Puna HB 2434

To whom it may concern!

Health and safety are key priorities for the people of our State.

Puna is quickly expanding with a level of service in emergency services that is sorely lacking.

Please support Puna getting an ambulance and paramedics to staff it

Mahalo,

Stephanie Bath

stephbath@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: thesnovers@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David&Ursula Snover	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this measure, it is crucial for Puna, our underserved while being the fastest growing district, to receive adequate medical services. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: npuniwai@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelani Puniwai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Puna needs additional infrastructure. Please provide greater access to medical support.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:13 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: scorpio2k@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha honored Representatives. It is hard to imagine begging your government for basic rural ambulance support. And yet here we are. Your support of this measure is especially critical in Puna Makai where we have no alternative route for emergency vehicles to use. We are far from the hospital and deserve a reasonable expectation of survival. Mahalo for your Kokua.

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14-850 Flower Road
(PO Box 215)
Pahoa, HI 96778

February 24, 2016

Hawaii State Legislature

Most Honorable Representatives,

As a senior living in the Pahoa area, I may require emergency medical services at some point in the next several years. This bill is sorely needed for life support and emergency medical services in the Puna District and it is needed quickly. The majority of my medical doctors are nearly 30 miles away in Hilo, as are all major medical facilities that may be required by me and/or by others in my age group. Transport time to Hilo is long enough, without adding the requisite time for an emergency medical service vehicle to first make the trip from Hilo to Pahoa or other areas in Puna!

I urge you to pass this bill and bring peace of mind and emergency medical services to your constituents who live in these remote areas of the Big Island. Bad enough we have to see doctors who fly all the way from Honolulu and hold office hours only twice a week in Hilo, in an emergency, we would need the facilities incorporated into this bill, so please pass HB2434 as quickly as possible.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. I will be following this bill in the days to come!

Aloha,

Bob Farrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM*

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: perhansahi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pete Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the fastest growing district in Hawaii, the population growth in Puna necessitates the need for an additional ambulance.

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ROBERT P. MARX

Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation

Send Correspondence to:

688 Kinoole Street, Suite 105
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone: (808) 935-8988
Fax: (808) 935-8578

February 25, 2016

House of Representatives
Twenty-eight legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

Dear Committee Members:

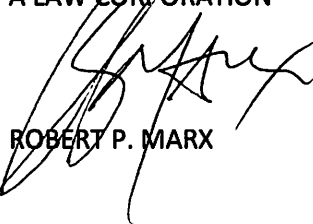
It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of H.B. No. 2434, which was drafted to supply emergency medical services medic units in Puna and Hilo.

The district of Puna is the fastest growing district in the state. Hawaii county fire department's emergency medical services are significantly impacted as a result of rapid population growth.

To date, only two emergency medical units handle ninety-one percent of emergency medical calls from Puna residents. This is unacceptable, considering the availability of emergency medical services makes the difference between life and death.

Therefore, without reservation I support H.B. No. 2434.

Very truly yours,
ROBERT P. MARX, ATTORNEY AT LAW,
A LAW CORPORATION



ROBERT P. MARX

From: Sarah Taylor <peacepurpose@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Please pass HB 2434

Please pass HB 2434. Not only is Puna an ever growing community, we are the islands farmers, caregivers, nurses, disabled veterans, school teachers and people who service Hawaii.

With the depressed economy many people cannot afford to repair cars. Many peoples vehicles were totaled in the 2014 hurricane and wind storms. We have a health care crisis here. With the Ormat geothermal plant out of compliance, and with such large incidents of kidney disease we need Medical Support in Puna. Along with ambulances we need a medical center with both pharmacy and lab under the same roof. While our community is poor, we support a booming group of people with money, investors and snow birds, to afford funding a private (non state) hospital. Please help us.

Thank you!

Sarah Taylor, Owner/Patient Advocate



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO

1018 PALM DRIVE | HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

TEL: (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003

www.hawaiifirefighters.org

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2016

LATE

FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Committee on Finance

Testimony by

Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, ALF-CIO

H.B. No. 2434, HD1 Relating to Health

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. HFFA represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State with more than 345 HFFA members serving the County of Hawaii Fire Department, the only fire-based emergency medical service (EMS) among the four County Fire Departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters.

HFFA **strongly supports** H.B. No. 2434 HD1 as Hawai'i Island has experienced a number of factors that justifiably warrants the need for the additional EMS units, including the increase in EMS call volume; population growth; and the sheer land mass of the island.

Access to primary and acute medical care within these areas has been chronically challenging as services are currently as much as 30 miles away for many residents. The volume of EMS calls have slowly increased each year without a correlated increase in EMS services to the areas and with the projected population growth, this will no doubt continue to impact our ability to deliver high quality EMS services to Hawaii Island's residents. Given the current circumstances, the outcomes of patients who have an injury or illness in which their treatment is time sensitive, the odds are stacked against them.

The request presented in H.B. No. 2434 HD1 are to aid in meeting the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to Puna.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and HFFA respectfully requests favorable consideration of these measures.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 7:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: islandeyesvideo@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM



HB2434

Submitted on: 2/26/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee, I strongly support HB2434. As a resident of the Puna area I am keenly aware of the need for improving the emergency medical services to Puna. Adding an “advanced life support medic unit” (an Ambulance) would be an important step in that direction. As the fastest growing district in Hawaii, the population growth in Puna necessitates the need for an additional ambulance. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Mary Marvin Porter Island Eyes Video HCR 1 Box 5505, Kea'au, Hawai'i

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