

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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB2434
RELATING TO HEALTH

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 2434 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 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 additional requested vehicle, personnel, and equipment are not in the DOH's fiscal year
18 2016-2017 budget. Should the Legislature wish to increase the Hawaii County EMS resources,
19 the requisite funds would need to be added to the DOH budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 and
20 beyond.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
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February 6, 2016

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Committee on Health
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Au Belatti:

Subject: HB 2434 RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES
Hearing Date: Monday, February 8, 2016
Time/Place of Hearing: 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 329

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 2434 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 Della Au Belatti
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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 Honorable Representative Dellá Au Belatti
Page 2
February 6, 2016

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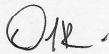
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Sincerely,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:35 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Puna Community Medical Center	Support	No

Comments: Puna District is 500 square miles, larger than Oahu, and many of its roads are substandard, so driving time to the Emergency Room takes longer than usual. In addition, there is only one ambulance in Pahoia and another in Keaau for the entire district. When an ambulance is out of service for maintenance or on another call, patients have to wait for the next availability. Sometimes this exceeds 2 hours. When the EMTs finally arrive, there is only so much they can do to stabilize a patient - and often the "golden hour" lapses before full care can be provided. It is therefore critical and vital that another ambulance with enhanced capability be available to serve the Puna District. It is literally a matter of life and death. Mahalo, Rene Siracusa, President, Puna Community Medical Center.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:12 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sugarfamily99@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Sugar	Puna Community Medical Clinic	Support	No

Comments: Please follow the facts of this issue. The Lower Puna area is drastically under served. It is very obvious that we need additional ambulance and emergency medical service. Citizens of Puna have and will be losing lives until we add addition ambulance service. Thank you for your consideration and action on Bill 2434. Mahalo, Stephen Sugar

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HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2016

February 8, 2016

Committee on Health

Testimony by

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

H.B. No. 2434 Relating to Health
H.B. No. 2529 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

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 and H.B. No. 2529 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 and H.B. No. 2529 are to aid in meeting the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to Makalei and 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 05, 2016 5:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2434

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: Sunday, February 07, 2016 12:43 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: richard@bidleman.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Back in 2006 I was working on the Puna Community Develop Plan and needed statistics on the number of ambulance runs from zip code 96778 (basically lower Puna) I contacted the local fire chief and he was able to provide me with the number. In 2006 there were over 1,400 ambulance runs from zip code 96778. Today one can be driving almost anytime of day along Highway #130 and see an ambulance coming from Pahoia or going to Pahoia. Because Pahoia only has one ambulance, the Keaau ambulance covers Pahoia if an ambulance in Pahoia is on a run. Pahoia is over 20 miles from the Hilo Medical Center ER. In order to meet emergencies in a timely manner Pahoia needs a second ambulance

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 5:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: thesnovers@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2434

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
David&Uschi Snover	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In regard to that we are the fastest growing district Puna is underserved in many ways while having paid for years it's share in property taxes without getting appropriate infrastructure. Please consider approving this life-saving measure. Mahalo nui.

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Testimony in support of HB 2434

relating to ambulance svc in puna district, hawaii county

our district of puna is grossly underserved in terms of medical support. We have needed this new ambulance and paramedics to run it for years. Please let us have this, its not a huge expense but it will help a lot of people have a chance to survive a medical emergency. I own a home in hawn shores rec so I know what the situation is here. Mayor kenoi is also in agreement with this bill. Please let it pass thru so we can get our much needed ambulance. Aloha, john rogers 282-0042

HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 3:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 6:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bogiejc62@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Jennett	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a resident of Puna it is my opinion that we need additional emergency services in the form of an ambulance. Puna is an economically challenged community and there are no emergency facilities close by. In addition Puna has a significant portion of the population with substance abuse issues that lead to medical emergencies . What Puna REALLY needs is substance abuse and mental health counselors available in Close proximity. Mahalo

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Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:47 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mmoruss@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2434 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2434

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Russill	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Puna continues to grow as it is a wonderful and diverse place to live. Last year's lava flow event emphasized how vulnerable we are and how much we have had to rely on support and assistance from distant sources. Having a highly trained life support medic unit available will provide faster and possibly life-saving services to the families and individuals who now have to travel up to two hours to reach medical care. I strongly support the passage of this bill.

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