

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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 2529
RELATING TO 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 Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities. HB
3 2529 appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in fiscal year 2016-2027 to the DOH,
4 Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch for an additional ambulance
5 unit including vehicle, personnel, and equipment.

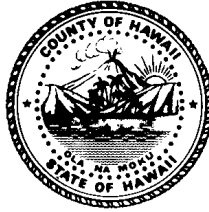
6 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
7 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding community of Makalei. This
8 measure seeks to augment the Hawaii emergency medical services system for the residents and
9 visitors of the Island 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 Makalei area by Zip code (96740) for the 6-year period 2010-2015. The mandated DOH
13 contract response time for this area is 15 minutes or less. We found that over the 6-year period
14 10% of the ambulance response times exceeded the mandatory 15 minute threshold. Adding an
15 additional ambulance unit and personnel resources might improve these 911 response times and
16 allow for 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 Honolulu EMS resources, the
19 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.

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 8, 2016

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony In Support of HB2529; Relating to Emergency Medical Services
Hearing Date: February 8, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 329

Dear House Committee on Health:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, our support for the above referenced bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

An appropriation of funds for emergency medical services for North Kona is needed. Currently, those who are in need of emergency medical services and time-sensitive treatment in the North Kona area are at risk of losing their health or their lives.

I strongly encourage passing this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

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 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 2529 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 2529 to make an appropriation for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to be based in the North Kona District.

The Makalei Fire Station in North Kona was opened in 2013 and houses a Fire Engine and Hazardous Materials Response unit. The Makalei station fills a gap on Hwy 190 between the Kailua Fire Station and the Waikoloa Fire Station serving one of the fastest growing districts in the state of Hawaii with approximately 45,000 residents. Unfortunately this station was never equipped or staffed with an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to serve the area residents emergency medical response (EMS) needs.

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 has determined that an EMS Medic Unit crew must respond to a scene within eight minutes. According to NFPA 1710, "This requirement is based on experience, expert consensus and science. Many studies note the role of time and the delivery of early defibrillation in patient survival due to heart attacks and cardiac arrest, which are the most time-critical, resource-intensive medical emergency events to which fire departments respond." Trauma cases are also extremely time sensitive and rapid transport to definitive treatment often makes the difference between life and death.

The current EMS response within the district comes from Medic 7 (8 miles away) out of



The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

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February 6, 2016

the Kailua Fire Station, Medic 12 (15 miles away) out of the Keauhou Fire Station and Medic 16 (27 miles away) out of the Waikoloa Fire Station. Medic 7 and 12 account for 17% of the EMS calls in the County of Hawaii and in the best circumstances will manage a response time of 8-15 minutes to the district of North Kona; if neither of these units is available the response time from Medic 16 in Waikoloa Village is approximately 25-30 minutes. To compound this the approximate transport time from North Kona to Kona Community Hospital is 25-30 minutes. That said, patients treated and transported within the North Kona district are at a disadvantage due to response and transport times and based on this overall patient outcomes suffer.

This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawaii Island specific to North Kona so that we can maintain high level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change. The HFD urges you to support HB 2529.

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

Sincerely,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

February 6, 2016
In Support of HB2529

Committees on Health and Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the Daniel Sayre Memorial Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) public foundation whose mission it is to provide fire, emergency, and rescue equipment and supplies to the Hawaii County Fire Department, or necessary funding for the purchase of said equipment and supplies and related training in the use of such equipment; and to educate the public regarding ocean and fire safety, I speak in support of HB2529.

The Makalei Fire Station in North Kona was opened in 2013 and houses a Fire Engine and Hazardous Materials Response unit. The Makalei station fills a gap on Hwy 190 between the Kailua Fire Station and the Waikoloa Fire Station serving one of the fastest growing districts in the state of Hawaii with approximately 45,000 residents. Unfortunately this station was never staffed with an Advanced Life Support (ALS) team to serve the area residents emergency medical response (EMS) needs.

EMS response time significantly impacts the overall delivery time of the patient to definitive treatment at an emergency room. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) which creates standards for Fire Service has determined that an EMS ambulance crew must respond to a scene within eight minutes to ensure optimal delivery of emergency care. According to NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments "This requirement is based on experience, expert consensus and science. Many studies note the role of time and the delivery of early defibrillation in patient survival due to heart attacks and cardiac arrest, which are the most time-critical, resource-intensive medical emergency events to which fire departments respond." Trauma, stroke and other cardiac emergencies are also extremely time sensitive and rapid transport to definitive treatment often makes the difference between life and death.

The current EMS response within the Makalei district comes from Medic 7 (8 miles away) out of the Kailua Fire Station, Medic 12 (15 miles away) out of the Keauhou Fire Station and Medic 16 (27 miles away) out of the Waikoloa Fire Station. Medic 7 and 12 account for 17% of the EMS calls in the County of Hawaii and in the best circumstances will manage a response time of 8-15 minutes to the district of North Kona; if neither of these units is available the response time from Medic 16 in Waikoloa Village is approximately 25-30 minutes. To compound this the approximate transport time from North Kona to Kona Community Hospital is 25-30 minutes. With that being said, patients treated and transported within the North Kona district are at a disadvantage due to response and transport times and based on this, overall patient outcomes suffer.

This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawaii Island specific to North Kona so that we can maintain a high level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change. I urge the House of Representatives to support HB2529 so that more lives will be saved on Hawaii Island.

Sincerely,

Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHed, Executive Director



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

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 5:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2529 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2529

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:

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
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 9:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Ingmakani@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2529 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2529

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
sean gallagher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: aloha i want the committee to know that i am strongly in favor of ambulance service in north kohala. i had to be transferred once by ambulance after a car struck me while riding my bicycle about 6 years ago. i can't imagine what i would have done had i had to wait for some citizen to drive me to the ER. everyone should have this valuable service no matter where they live. thank you for reading this.

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Kazuo & Miko Todd
75-5706 Kalawa St
Kailua Kona Hi 96740

2/07/16

RE: HB 2529 Emergency Medical Services; North Kona; Appropriation

POSITION: Support

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Representative Au Belatti and General Committee Members:

Kona is in need of an additional ambulance for medical response. When our current ambulance based out of Kailua Fire Station is transporting a patient, the nearest ambulance can be over twenty minutes away. When there is a critical medical emergency this is too long. National medical response shoots for the platinum ten, and the golden hour. This goal is to initiate medical care within ten minutes of a medical condition and to get a patient to definitive treatment within an hour. Currently Kona lacks the medical response infrastructure our population needs.

To put this description into numbers, Kailua Kona Fire Station's Ambulance covers a population of over 30k people and over 40 miles of highway. The closest ambulance to the north is 27 miles away. Compounding these factors of distance is the fact that Kailua Fire Station is the busiest fire station on the island accruing more calls per year than any other fire station. When the ambulance is transporting a patient to Kona Community Hospital which is 19 miles away, this gap of coverage extends to 39 miles between ambulance response. This gap exists for each patient transported and last approximately an hour each time.

Considering that Kailua Fire Station receives an average of 14-16 calls a day (per discussion with fire fighters there), the odds for an extremely long medical response is highly likely. Sitting and watching your loved one in need of help for twenty minutes when they need an ambulance is too long. Please consider funding the positions so that an ambulance can be placed in Kona to supplement the area's medical response.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this opinion

Sincerely,



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:50 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: fsayre@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2529 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2529

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
Dr. Frank H. Sayre, D.D.S.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is one of the fastest growing population centers on the Big Island. Under the best of circumstances it would take an ambulance from Kailua-Kona 12 to 18 minutes to arrive at a scene of an emergency. The State would stand to lose a lot of money if a wrongful death suit is brought because of a delayed response, (if the Kailua ambulance is on another call the response time from Keauhou or South Kohala could be as long as 30 to 45 minutes). The primary duty of government is to ensure the safety of it's people. This is the right thing to do.

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 3:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2529 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2529

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 1:18 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kiliheainaba@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2529 on Feb 8, 2016 15:00PM

HB2529

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
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this bill. I believe that it will positively impact and greatly benefit the people of Kona and Hawaii Island. Mahalo!

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