

*From the office of -*  
Council Member  
District 4 - Puna Makai



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**GREGGOR ILAGAN**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 481 HD1.

The population of North Kona continues to grow rapidly as people from around the nation and the world discover its charms and natural beauty. However, that increase in population brings an increase in need for emergency medical services.

The situation faced by these residents is similar to that in the Council district that I represent in Puna. In both districts, there is an exploding population center roughly 30 minutes away from the nearest hospital. I understand that one of the critical factors in a patient's outcome is the response time for a call.

Having an advanced life support ambulance based at Makalei will cut that response time and will provide support and relief to the emergency medical service personnel currently operating in West Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i County Council supports funding for this ambulance by the unanimous approval of Resolution 79-15.

Please recommend approval of this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Greggor Ilagan*

Greggor Ilagan  
Council Member

RESOLUTION NO. 79 15**A RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR AN ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE IN MAKALEI, AS PROVIDED IN SENATE BILL NO. 298 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 481.**

**WHEREAS**, the Makalei Fire Station in North Kona has been operating on Highway 190 since 2013 to serve a fast-growing district of about 45,000 people, but it is not equipped or staffed with an advanced life support ambulance; and

**WHEREAS**, without an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei Fire Station, depending on the availability of nearby ambulances, response times in the area range from 8 minutes in the best circumstances to 30 minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei will reduce the time for emergency medical service personnel to respond to emergencies involving residents and visitors on Hawai'i Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued lack of an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei reduces the ability of emergency medical service personnel to respond to life-threatening incidents in a timely manner; and

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I** that the Legislature is urged to support funding for an advanced life support ambulance in Makalei, as provided in Senate Bill No. 298 and House Bill No. 481.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Council supports all efforts by the Legislature to improve access to emergency health care for residents and visitors on Hawai'i Island.

**finance1-Kim**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 6:47 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** csmorimoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB481 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB481**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

February 27, 2015

Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

**LATE**

H.B. No. 851 HD1      Relating to Health  
H.B. No. 481 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 EMS service among the four County fire departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters.

HFFA strongly supports H.B. No. 851 HD1 and H.B. 481 HD1 as Hawai'i Island has experienced a number of factors that justifiably warrants the need for additional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units, including a population growth; impending destruction of Highway 130 due to the still-active June 27<sup>th</sup> lava flow; 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 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. 851 HD1 and H.B. 481 HD1 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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**LATE**

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 481 HD 1  
Relating to Health**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 27, 2015 11:00 AM Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in fiscal years 2015-  
2 2016 and 2016-2017. The measure requests an additional advanced life support ambulance unit  
3 including a vehicle, personnel, and equipment.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive  
5 Budget request for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

6 The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing health care and  
7 emergency services to the Makalei Community. The Department is projecting a shortfall in  
8 general funds to fund the existing ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17.  
9 Funding an additional unit would have a negative impact on existing services.

10 This measure seeks to augment the Hawaii County emergency medical services system  
11 for the residents and visitors of the Makalei area. Hawaii County currently operates 15 ground  
12 ambulance units on the island of Hawaii. The last unit added was unit 3, Hawaii Ocean View  
13 Estates, in fiscal year 2005. Hawaii County has budgeted funds to secure and administer a  
14 backup 911 contract with American Medical Response to aid with increased 911 calls.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 3:33 PM  
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**HB481**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Support	Yes

Comments:

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