



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 481**  
**Relating to Health**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 10, 2015 8:30 AM Room Number: 329

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.

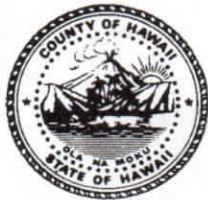
4 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing  
5 health care and emergency services to the Makalei Community. The Department is projecting a  
6 shortfall in general funds to fund the existing ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and  
7 FY17. The Department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request for the  
8 Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities. Funding an additional unit  
9 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.

16 **Offered Amendments:** none

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



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**GREGGOR ILAGAN**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Health

Dear Chair Belatti and Committee members,

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

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 Puna, which is the Council district that I represent. In both regions, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Greggor Ilagan  
Council Member



## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015  
February 10 2015

Committee on Health

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 851                      Relating to Health  
H.B. No. 481                      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 and H.B. 481 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 and H.B. 481 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.

February 9, 2015

In Support of HB 481

The Honorable Representatives Lowen, Evans, Iciyama, Kobayashi, Lee, Luke, Mizuno, Morikawa, Nakashima, Nishimoto, Saiki, Tsuji, Belatti, Creagan, Onishi, and San Buenaventura

Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 329  
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 SB 298.

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. 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 Senate and the House of Representatives to support SB 298 so that more lives will be saved on Hawaii Island.

Sincerely,

Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHEd, Executive Director