

*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,

On behalf of the residents of Puna, I am grateful for your support for an advanced life support ambulance, and I ask that you recommend approval of House Bill 851 HD1.

There has long been a dire need for an ambulance to serve this fast-growing district, and now that need has become even more critical.

Today, an active lava flow remains upslope of Highway 130, and on three occasions it has come within a mile of crossing Highway 130. Although upslope breakouts have stalled the front for now, this flow is expected to remain active for a very long time. The loss of access to the highway will have a tremendous impact on the ability of emergency medical service personnel to respond to life-threatening emergencies.

When lava crosses the highway, it will require a 10-mile detour through gravel emergency routes and private subdivision roads between Puna makai and Hilo Medical Center. An advanced life support ambulance will provide increased levels of care and will lead to better outcomes for patients in Puna.

Please also note that the Hawai'i County Council fully supports funding for this ambulance by the unanimous approval of Resolution No. 70-15.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greggor Ilagan".

Greggor Ilagan  
Council Member

**finance1-Kim**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:21 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ecabatu@hhsc.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB851 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM

**HB851**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

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>
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments: Dan Brinkman, Interim CEO of East Hawaii Region of HHSC, and Money Atwal, CFO/CIO of the East Hawaii Region of HHSC will attend the hearing.

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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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:54 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** zabal7@upwhawaii.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB851 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB851**

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>
Al Lardizabal	United Public Workers	Support	No

Comments:

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**finance1-Kim**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 6:46 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** csmorimoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB851 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB851**

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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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 5:48 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** slwsurfing@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB851 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB851**

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>
sharon willeford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 3:14 PM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: speedy\_bailey@amr-ems.com  
 Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB851 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB851**

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

**LATE**

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 851 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 EMS Special Funds (ESF) in fiscal
- 2 year 2015-2016. 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 emergency
- 7 services to the Puna Community. The Department is projecting a shortfall in ESF to fund the
- 8 existing ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17. 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 for the
- 11 residents and visitors of the Puna area. Hawaii County currently operates 15 ground ambulance
- 12 units on the island of Hawaii. The last unit added was unit 3, Hawaii Ocean View Estates, in
- 13 fiscal year 2005. Hawaii County has budgeted funds to secure and administer a backup 911
- 14 contract with American Medical Response to aid with increased 911 calls.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929  
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
WEBSITE: [www.hawaiiirefighters.org](http://www.hawaiiirefighters.org)

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.



**TO: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2015, FRIDAY**

**TIME: 11:00 AM**

**PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**TESTIFIER: WANNETTE GAYLORD**

**BILL: HB 859 HD1**

**POSITION: IN STRONG SUPPORT**



**GOOD MORNING CHAIR LUKE, VICE-CHAIR NISHIMOTO AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

**MY NAME IS WANNETTE GAYLORD AND I AM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF ARCA, ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTIALCARE ADMINISTRATORS.**

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB859 HD1 WITH A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.**

**OUR ORGANIZATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S INSPECTIONS WEBSITE INCLUDE A VACANCY REPORT IN WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN FACILITATING PLACEMENT OF OUR FRAGILE KUPUNA INTO THE RIGHT HOME.**

**THE DOH IS REQUIRED TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FORUM. WE REQUEST THAT LEADERS FROM PROMINENT CAREGIVER ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ARCA ARE INCLUDED IN THIS WORKING GROUP.**

**MAHALO FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT.**