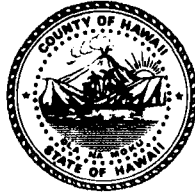


COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I



STATE OF HAWAI‘I

RESOLUTION NO. 70 15

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR AN ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE TO BE BASED IN PUNA, AS PROVIDED IN SENATE BILL NO. 1016 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 851.

WHEREAS, the district of Puna is the fastest growing and most underserved in the State, with a current population of more than 45,000 individuals served by three ambulances; and

WHEREAS, the district of Puna has recorded on average 180 emergency medical services incidents per month for the last five years; and

WHEREAS, an active lava flow from Kīlauea volcano poses a long-term threat to Highway 130, cutting off critical access to emergency health care, delaying the response time, and endangering the lives of thousands of people who are unable to relocate; and

WHEREAS, an additional advanced life support ambulance in Puna, plus funding for equipment and personnel costs as provided in Senate Bill No. 1016 and House Bill No. 851 will improve access to emergency health care, reduce the response time, and save lives; now, therefore,


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 Puna, as provided in Senate Bill No. 1016 and House Bill No. 851.

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.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Senator Josh Green, the Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, the Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, the Honorable Representative Sylvia J. Luke, and the Director of the Department of Health.

Dated at Kona, Hawai'i, this 18th day of February, 2015.

INTRODUCED BY:

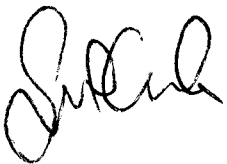


 COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

COUNTY COUNCIL
 County of Hawai'i
 Hilo, Hawai'i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai'i on February 18, 2015.

ATTEST:



COUNTY CLERK



CHAIRPERSON & PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
CHUNG	X			
DAVID	X			
EOFF	X			
ILAGAN	X			
KANUHA	X			
ONISHI	X			
PALEKA	X			
POINDEXTER	X			
WILLE	X			
	9	0	0	0

Reference: C-108/Waived GREDC

RESOLUTION NO. 70 15

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 414
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Green:

Subject: H.B. 851, RELATING TO HEALTH
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Time/Place of Hearing: 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 414

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports H.B. 851 to make an appropriation for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to be based in the Puna District

The EMS needs of the residents of Puna are centrally served by HFD Medic's 5 and 10 out of the Kea'au and Pāhoa 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'ū.

Furthermore, the district of Puna is currently under the imminent threat of the "July 27 lava flow" that is poised to severely impact services to thousands of lower Puna residents. Essentially, the lava flow will cut them off from critical transportation infrastructure, which is their lifeline to amongst other things, health care. The area of lower Puna, currently impacted by the lava flow is home to nearly 10,000 people who live scattered about the nearly 100 square miles predicted to be isolated by the impact area. Furthermore, a recent survey conducted by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo shows that 1,101 households within the impact area house at least one person with a disability. Access to primary and acute medical care will be severely delayed due to lengthened travel times. The current time from Pāhoa to Hilo via highway 130 is approximately 30 minutes without traffic. Once the flow crosses highway 130 and the alternate Makai routes, travel by ground will then go through the Chain of Craters road and take approximately 2 hours without traffic. Given these challenges an ALS ambulance in the community is an absolute necessity to the well being of the residents within the flow.



Retrospective data analysis from the Hawai'i Fire Department shows that approximately 180 EMS incidents are generated from within the impact area per month.

The County of Hawai'i has been proactively preparing since the threat became a reality. One proactive measure taken has been the creation of a new full service Fire Station, the "Pāhoa Village Fire Station", located within the impact area, in the town of Pāhoa. In addition to Fire Protection Apparatus, the station houses a fully staffed Advanced Life Support Ambulance fully funded by the County of Hawai'i to assist in meeting the acute health care needs of the community. Funding of each county's Emergency Medical Services System is a function of the State of Hawai'i. The current EMS budget provided to the County of Hawai'i by the State of Hawaii cannot cover the expenses of operating this additional ALS ambulance; State EMS/DOH has indicated they cannot fund it either. For the best interest of the health care needs of lower Puna, the County of Hawai'i has been funding the Pāhoa Village ambulance since November 1, 2014. In addition, the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD) has developed a partnership with private ambulance provider American Medical Response (AMR) to serve in a "back up" role within lower Puna. HFD is also developing a partnership and has conducted training with private air medical service provider Hawai'i Life Flight to assist in patient transport out of the impact area for time sensitive EMS cases.

- 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.

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.

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.

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 27% 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 with the current roadway infrastructure in place. This will increase to a 4 hour minimum once the lava flow

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
March 16, 2015
Page 2

crosses Highway 130. It has 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, driving and overall safety are of great concern for our personnel.

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 has resulted in increased 911 back costs to AMR. In the 2011 – 2014 fiscal periods we averaged nearly \$15,000 per month in 911 back up charges to AMR.

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@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ecabatu@hpsc.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB851 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:13:54 AM

HB851

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	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
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: zabal7@upwhawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB851 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 11:41:56 AM
Attachments: [HB 851, HD1 Relating to Health](#)

HB851

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Al Lardizabal	United Public Workers	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB851 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 6:56:00 AM

HB851

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB851 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 7:20:38 PM

HB851

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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