

# HCR90

**Measure Title:** REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATIONS, TO ALLEVIATE EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.

**Report Title:** Community Paramedic Program; Working Group; Emergency Medical Services

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** CPH, WAM

**Introducer(s):** BELATTI, CREAGAN, FUKUMOTO CHANG, HASHEM, KOBAYASHI, MORIKAWA



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 90**

REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATIONS, TO ALLEVIATE EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: Mon, April 18, 2016 10:00am Room Number: 016

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Costs to support work group unknown.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports HCR90 and recognizes that
- 3 community paramedic services must be both geographically and culturally sensitive to Hawaii's
- 4 needs. The Department shall work collaboratively with the EMS community and stakeholders to
- 5 develop a Hawaii community paramedic program.
- 6 This model could improve access to care for persons in rural and metropolitan areas statewide
- 7 requesting non-emergent care through Hawaii's EMS system.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
April 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

HCR 90 – REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM  
BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP EMERGENCY  
SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.

Chair Baker, and Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports the intent of HCR 90. This measure would convene a working group to develop a community paramedic program, including educational standards for certifications, to alleviate emergency services from responding to non-emergency calls.

The introduction of a community paramedic program will allow paramedics to respond to those individuals who utilize the emergency medical services system (911) as primary access to healthcare. These highly trained paramedics will be able to respond to those individuals, perform initial assessments, physical examinations, obtain past medical histories, and diagnostic examinations within their current scope of practice to evaluate their conditions.

These patients can then be referred to supportive services, such as social services, mental health, or other while reducing the need to transport them to a crowded hospital emergency department. These community paramedics will be able to provide non-emergency care, patient education, and referral services. This will minimize the need for a 911 ambulance, which should only be reserved for true emergencies.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of HCR 90 and supports its passage. We look forward to continuing our active and committed engagement in these partnerships.

**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

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
And Health  
415 South Beretania Street  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: HCR 90 Requesting the Chief of the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch to convene and chair a working group to develop a community paramedic program, including educational standards for certifications, to alleviate emergency services from responding to non-emergency calls.**  
**Hearing Date: Monday, April 18, 2016**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016**

Dear Chair Baker:

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The HCFD strongly support HCR 90, which requests the State of Hawai'i's Chief of EMS and Injury Prevention convene and chair a working group to develop a Community Paramedic Program.

As the only County Fire Department in the State of Hawai'i contracted to provide 911 EMS services, we have felt the progressive impact of non-emergency cases straining the resources of our EMS system. This is a growing issue across the State of Hawai'i and the United States as a whole. Community Paramedicine programs across the country have been proven effective to help address these issues and alleviate the strain on critical resources.

The County of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Fire Department has over the past several years been developing a Community Paramedicine Program to proactively address over-utilizers of the EMS System. Though our program is in its infancy we have seen positive effects from our efforts. We have seen a significant reduction in 911 calls from some of our highest utilizers and helped facilitate assistance for patients who were found to be without appropriate health care services and support. A coordinated effort statewide is certain to save healthcare dollars, better preserve our resources for true emergencies and most importantly provide quality care to the residents and visitors in a timely fashion.

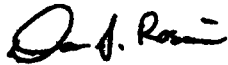


The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
April 15, 2016  
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The HCFD strongly urge your committee's passage HCR 90.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-932-2903 or [fire@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:fire@hawaiicounty.gov)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Rosario". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [david@kingdonconsulting.com](mailto:david@kingdonconsulting.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR90 on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM  
**Date:** Saturday, April 16, 2016 12:12:03 PM

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**HCR90**

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Community paramedic programs have been shown to be integral parts of forward-looking EMS systems. They appreciate the intersection of public health and emergency services. Nationally and internationally, however, the structure and functionality of these programs vary greatly. This working group will ensure that Hawaii develops a community paramedic program that is well-suited to our state and effective in improving health and safety in the community. Thank you for your consideration.

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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tabraham08@gmail.com](mailto:tabraham08@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR90 on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM  
**Date:** Friday, April 15, 2016 9:36:39 AM

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**HCR90**

Submitted on: 4/15/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this because it'll create jobs and community interaction with paramedics to save lives.

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