



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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WRITTEN ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 1016
Relating to Health**

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 2, 2015 9:00 AM Room Number: 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount of EMS Special Funds (ESF) in fiscal year 2015-
- 2 2016. The measure requests an additional advanced life support ambulance unit including a vehicle,
- 3 personnel, and equipment.

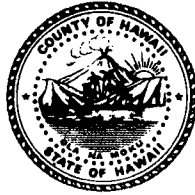
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive Budget
- 5 request for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

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

- 10 This measure seeks to augment the Hawaii County emergency medical services system for the residents
- 11 and visitors of the Puna area. Hawaii County currently operates 16 ground ambulance units on the
- 12 island of Hawaii. The last unit added was unit 3, Hawaii Ocean View Estates, in fiscal year 2005. Hawaii
- 13 County has budgeted funds to secure and administer a backup 911 contract with American Medical
- 14 Response to aid with increased 911 calls.

- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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:

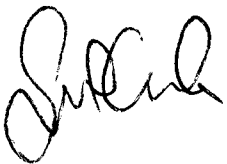


 COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

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

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