



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 1281 SD 1
Relating to Health**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: Wed., March 25, 2015 8:45 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 the state Department of Health to assist the City and
3 County of Honolulu to operate an additional ambulance unit.

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
7 emergency services to the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village
8 Communities. The Department is projecting a shortfall in general funds to fund the existing
9 ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17. Funding an additional unit could have
10 a negative impact on existing services.

11 This measure seeks to augment the City and County emergency medical services system
12 for the residents and visitors of the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake, and Foster Village
13 areas. The Honolulu City and County Emergency Medical Services currently operates 20 ground
14 ambulances on the island of Oahu. The last unit added was Ewa Beach in fiscal year 2013.
15 Honolulu City and County has budgeted funds to secure and administer a backup 911 contract
16 with American Medical Response to aid with increased 911 calls.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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March 23, 2015

The Honorable Della Au Bellati, Chair
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice-Chair
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

Re: SB 1281, SD1, Relating to Emergency Medical Care

Dear Chair Bellati, Vice-Chair Creagan and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Service Division, is in strong support of the SB 1281 SD1.

The Emergency Medical Service Division responds to 911 calls for emergencies throughout the island of Oahu. We respond to calls and treat life-threatening conditions daily. Our paramedics and EMTs have to take care of people who are hurt and sick in the worst kinds of conditions. When responding to incidents and to the hospitals with lights and sirens, our personnel put themselves at risk every time. Yet everyday, every paramedic and EMTs go out there and make a difference.

As of today, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Service Division, has 240 uniformed personnel. There are 78 females (32.5%) and 162 males (67.5%) that make up the uniformed personnel.

We have 18 EMS units that are 24-hours, 2 EMS units that are 16-hour units, and 2 non-transport response vehicles that are 16 hours.

The Honolulu District consists of 5 EMS units covering the area from the ocean to the mountain, and west of 6th Avenue to east of Ala Liliikoi. The average response time is 8 minutes in urban Honolulu.

Over the last 4 years, our total call volume over all has increased 18%. Last year, we responded to 87,557 calls. We transported 52,977. The 5 metropolitan units

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The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice-Chair
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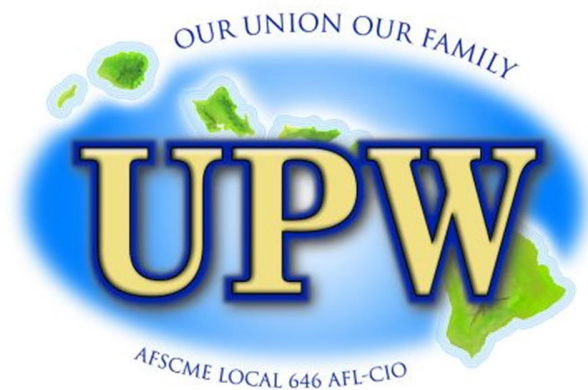
alone responded to 34,798 calls. That is 40% of the call volume. If you include adjacent units Wailupe and Aiea into that figure, since they are constantly covering the town area, it increases to 52%. Over half of our total call volume is run by 7 units. There is a definite need for another ambulance in the Salt Lake/Moanalua area to help out the town units.

The last time an EMS unit was added to the Metropolitan area was in 2005. The Salt Lake/Moanalua area responded to 4,418 calls in the past year. An additional ambulance would allow for more even distribution of the calls, and decrease overall response times.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, highly support the passage of SB 1281 SD1.

Sincerely,


Mark K. Rigg
Director



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
The Honorable Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 25, 2015
TIME OF HEARING: 8:45 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1281, SD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL
CARE

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports this measure appropriating funds to operate an additional emergency medical unit in the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake and Foster Village areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.