



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on SB 1281
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 \$2,374,237.98 of general funds in fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-
- 2 2017. The measure requests the state Department of Health to assist the city and county of Honolulu to
- 3 operate an additional ambulance unit.

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

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

- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.