



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB 298
Relating to Health

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015 1:15 PM Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in fiscal years 2015-2016 and
2 2016-2017. The measure requests an additional advanced life support ambulance unit including a
3 vehicle, personnel, and equipment.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing health care
5 and emergency services to the Makalei Community. The Department is projecting a shortfall in general
6 funds to fund the existing ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17. The Department
7 respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's
8 appropriations and personnel priorities. Funding an additional unit would have a negative impact on
9 existing services.

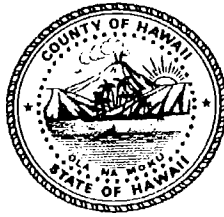
10 This measure seeks to augment the Hawaii County emergency medical services system for the residents
11 and visitors of the Makalei area. Hawaii County currently operates 16 ground ambulance units on the
12 island of Hawaii. The last unit added was unit 3, Hawaii Ocean View Estates, in fiscal year 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.

16 **Offered Amendments:** none

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 298

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Honorable Chair Green, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Health, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 298.

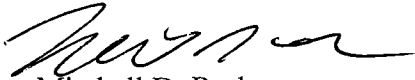
This measure makes an appropriation for one advanced life support ambulance to be based in Makalei on the island of Hawai'i and to be used from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to include a vehicle, equipment, and personnel costs.

For many of the residents in Malakei, primary care services can be as many as thirty miles away, thus, emergency medical services have become their access point for health care. Passage of this Bill will provide a new advanced life support ambulance which has the potential of reducing death and disability not only of the residents, but also to visitors to the island of Hawai'i.

The population of Malakei has increased significantly over the years and calls for emergency medical services have increased as well. As stated in this Bill's language, it has become common for medics to have up to ten transports in a twenty-four hour shift. The addition of an advance life support ambulance would help alleviate our concerns of exhaustion, which could lead to traffic accidents, errors in judgment, and the overall safety of medics and residents.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 298. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roth", written in a cursive style.

Mitchell D. Roth
Prosecuting Attorney
County of Hawai'i

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
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(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 2, 2015

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

Dear Chair Green:

Subject: SB 298, RELATING TO HEALTH

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 298 to make an appropriation for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to be based in Makalei on the island of Hawai'i.

The Makalei Fire Station in North Kona was opened in 2013 and houses a Fire Engine and Hazardous Materials Response unit. The Makalei station fills a gap on Highway 190 between the Kailua Fire Station and the Waikoloa Fire Station serving one of the fastest growing districts in the state of Hawai'i with approximately 45,000 residents. Unfortunately this station was never equipped or staffed with an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to serve the area residents emergency medical response (EMS) needs.

EMS response time significantly impacts the overall delivery time of the patient to definitive treatment at an emergency room. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) which creates standards for Fire Service has determined that an EMS ambulance crew must respond to a scene within eight minutes to ensure optimal delivery of emergency care. According to NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments "This requirement is based on experience, expert consensus and science. Many studies note the role of time and the delivery of early defibrillation in patient survival due to heart attacks and cardiac arrest, which are the most time-critical, resource-intensive medical emergency events to which fire departments respond." Trauma, stroke and other cardiac emergencies are also extremely time sensitive and rapid transport to definitive treatment often makes the difference between life and death.



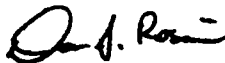
The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
February 2, 2015
Page 2

The current EMS response within the Makalei district comes from Medic 7 (8 miles away) out of the Kailua Fire Station, Medic 12 (15 miles away) out of the Keauhou Fire Station and Medic 16 (27 miles away) out of the Waikoloa Fire Station. Medic 7 and 12 account for 17% of the EMS calls in the County of Hawai'i and in the best circumstances will manage a response time of 8-15 minutes to the district of North Kona; if neither of these units is available the response time from Medic 16 in Waikoloa Village is approximately 25-30 minutes. To compound this the approximate transport time from North Kona to Kona Community Hospital is 25-30 minutes. With that being said, patients treated and transported within the North Kona district are at a disadvantage due to response and transport times and based on this, overall patient outcomes suffer.

This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to North Kona so that we can maintain a high level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 932-2903 or fire@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions.

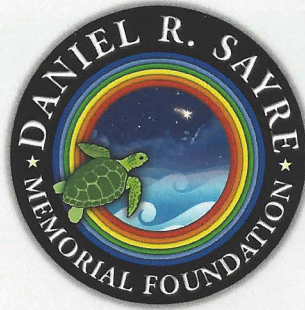
Sincerely,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

February 3, 2015

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



Helping Those Who Help All Of Us

Dear Senator Green:

On behalf of the Daniel Sayre Memorial Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) public foundation whose mission it is to provide fire, emergency, and rescue equipment and supplies to the Hawaii County Fire Department, or necessary funding for the purchase of said equipment and supplies and related training in the use of such equipment; and to educate the public regarding ocean and fire safety, I speak in support of SB 298.

The Makalei Fire Station in North Kona was opened in 2013 and houses a Fire Engine and Hazardous Materials Response unit. The Makalei station fills a gap on Hwy 190 between the Kailua Fire Station and the Waikoloa Fire Station serving one of the fastest growing districts in the state of Hawaii with approximately 45,000 residents. Unfortunately this station was never equipped or staffed with an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to serve the area residents emergency medical response (EMS) needs.

EMS response time significantly impacts the overall delivery time of the patient to definitive treatment at an emergency room. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) which creates standards for Fire Service has determined that an EMS ambulance crew must respond to a scene within eight minutes to ensure optimal delivery of emergency care. According to NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments "This requirement is based on experience, expert consensus and science. Many studies note the role of time and the delivery of early defibrillation in patient survival due to heart attacks and cardiac arrest, which are the most time-critical, resource-intensive medical emergency events to which fire departments respond." Trauma, stroke and other cardiac emergencies are also extremely time sensitive and rapid transport to definitive treatment often makes the difference between life and death.

The current EMS response within the Makalei district comes from Medic 7 (8 miles away) out of the Kailua Fire Station, Medic 12 (15 miles away) out of the Keauhou Fire Station and Medic 16 (27 miles away) out of the Waikoloa Fire Station. Medic 7 and 12 account for 17% of the EMS calls in the County of Hawaii and in the best circumstances will manage a response time of 8-15 minutes to the district of North Kona; if neither of these units is available the response time from Medic 16 in Waikoloa Village is approximately 25-30 minutes. To compound this the approximate transport time from North Kona to Kona Community Hospital is 25-30 minutes. With that being said, patients treated and transported within the North Kona district are at a disadvantage due to response and transport times and based on this, overall patient outcomes suffer.

This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawaii Island specific to North Kona so that we can maintain a high level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change. I urge the Senate and the House of Representatives to support SB 298 so that more lives will be saved on Hawaii Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Mallery - Sayre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

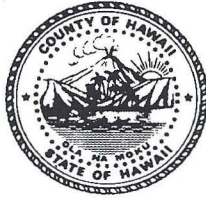
Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHed, Executive Director

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info@DanielSayreFoundation.net
<http://DanielSayreFoundation.net>
We are a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization

PO Box 1285
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745

From the office of -
Council Member
District 4 – Puna Makai



Office: (808) 965-2712
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GREGGOR ILAGAN
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 3, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Health

Dear Senator Green and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 298.

The population of North Kona continues to grow rapidly as people from around the nation and the world discover its charms and natural beauty. However, with that increase in population comes an increase in need for emergency medical services.

The situation faced by these residents is similar to that in Puna, which is the Council district that I represent. In both regions, there is an exploding population center roughly 30 minutes away from the nearest hospital. I understand that one of the critical factors in a patient's outcome is the response time for a call.

Having an advanced life support ambulance based at Makalei will cut that response time and will provide support and relief to the emergency medical service personnel currently operating in West Hawai'i.

Please recommend approval of this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Greggor Ilagan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Greggor' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Ilagan'.

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member