



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on SB 298
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 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 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 Makalei Community. The Department is projecting a shortfall in general funds to fund the
- 8 existing ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17. Funding an additional unit would have
- 9 a negative impact on 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.

COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I



STATE OF HAWAI‘I

RESOLUTION NO. 79 15

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR AN ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE IN MAKALEI, AS PROVIDED IN SENATE BILL NO. 298 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 481.

WHEREAS, the Makalei Fire Station in North Kona has been operating on Highway 190 since 2013 to serve a fast-growing district of about 45,000 people, but it is not equipped or staffed with an advanced life support ambulance; and

WHEREAS, without an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei Fire Station, depending on the availability of nearby ambulances, response times in the area range from 8 minutes in the best circumstances to 30 minutes; and

WHEREAS, an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei will reduce the time for emergency medical service personnel to respond to emergencies involving residents and visitors on Hawai‘i Island; and

WHEREAS, the continued lack of an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei reduces the ability of emergency medical service personnel to respond to life-threatening incidents in a timely manner; and

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 Makalei, as provided in Senate Bill No. 298 and House Bill No. 481.

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

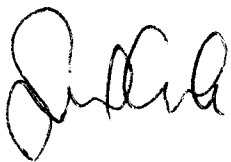
COUNTY COUNCIL
 County of Hawai'i
 Hilo, Hawai'i

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.

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

ATTEST:





COUNTY CLERK

CHAIRPERSON & PRESIDING OFFICER

Reference: C-119/Waived GREDC
 RESOLUTION NO. 79 15

SB298

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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SB298

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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