



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 5, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

By
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 90 – REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATIONS, TO ALLEVIATE EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) supports the intent of SCR 90. This measure would convene a working group to develop a community paramedic program, including educational standards for certifications, to alleviate emergency services from responding to non-emergency calls.

The introduction of a community paramedic program will allow paramedics to respond to those individuals who utilize the emergency medical services system (911) as primary access to healthcare. These highly trained paramedics will be able to respond to those individuals, perform initial assessments, physical examinations, obtain past medical histories, and diagnostic examinations within their current scope of practice to evaluate their conditions.

These patients can then be referred to supportive services, such as social services, mental health, or other while reducing the need to transport them to a crowded hospital emergency department. These community paramedics will be able to provide non-emergency care, patient education, and referral services. This will minimize the need for a 911 ambulance, which should only be reserved for true emergencies.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of SCR 90 and supports its passage. We look forward to continuing our active and committed engagement in these partnerships.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 90

REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATIONS, TO ALLEVIATE EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: Tue, April 5, 2016 1:00pm Room Number: 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Costs to support work group unknown.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health agrees with this concept for Hawaii and
- 3 recognizes that community paramedic services must be both geographically and culturally
- 4 sensitive to Hawaii's needs. The Department shall work collaboratively with the EMS
- 5 community and stakeholders to develop a Hawaii community paramedic program.
- 6 This model could improve access to care for persons in rural and metropolitan areas statewide
- 7 requesting non-emergent care through Hawaii's EMS system.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM*
Date: Saturday, April 02, 2016 11:41:51 AM

SCR90

Submitted on: 4/2/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	Individual	Support	Yes

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov