

GM 589

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, KARLSON PUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

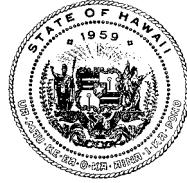
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 585, GM 586, GM 587, GM 588, GM 589, GM 590
NOMINEES TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: Fri, March 24, 2017 9am Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Air travel and transportation costs to attend meetings.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the following appointments to the
3 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

4 Mr. Cody Bonilla (GM 585) is a Mobile Intensive Care Technician (MICT), operations
5 supervisor, and injury prevention coordinator for American Medical Response (AMR) on Kauai.
6 He currently serves on this committee. His knowledge and expertise is an asset to EMSAC.

7 Mr. Eric Ishida (GM 586) is a MICT and an ambulance station supervisor for AMR on
8 Kauai. He has over 20 years of experience in EMS to bring to EMSAC. He has served on this
9 committee since 2012.

10 Mr. Gerald Wright (GM 587) is a MICT and operations team leader at the Hana
11 ambulance station for AMR on Maui. He has over 20 years of experience in EMS to bring to
12 EMSAC.

13 Dr. Joseph Hew (GM 588) is a retired gastroenterologist. He worked to improve
14 communications between several departments at Maui Memorial Medical Center.

15 Mr. Karlson Pung (GM 589) is a MICT and the operations manager for AMR on Hawaii
16 island. He has over 20 years of experience in EMS, currently serves on EMSAC, and served on
17 State Health Planning and Development Agency's Sub-Area Council Board. Mr. Pung plays a

1 vital role in the strong working relationship between AMR and Hawaii Fire Department, the
2 county of Hawaii's 911 provider. His background, experiences, and contributions are an asset to
3 EMSAC.

4 Dr. Michael Hayashi (GM590) is the trauma medical director and a board certified
5 surgical intensivist practicing at The Queen's Medical Center. He should bring valuable
6 knowledge, experience, and perspectives to the committee.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 12:31 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM589 on Mar 24, 2017 09:00AM*

GM589

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 24, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	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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GM589

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 24, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Pung has contributed in a positive way while a member of EMSAC and will continue to do so. Please support. Thank you.

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March 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Karlson Pung. I've known Karlson for 6 years. I first met him, as he led an ad hoc committee for the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee. The committee was tasked with obtaining community input into changing the Hawai'i state EMS licensing structure and making recommendations to the overall committee.

The topic was controversial, with many different viewpoints being offered by community members. Karlson did a great job in facilitating the group and bringing forward the most essential points. His in-depth knowledge of EMS as a whole and within the state of Hawai'i was evident during this process.

I also know Karlson as the manager of both American Medical Response's (AMR) Hawai'i Island's ambulance operations, as well as AMR's statewide air ambulance. Mr. Pung has a good reputation for providing a high-quality service for the island's population. Karlson was one of the key individuals involved with initiating AMR's air ambulance service. Again, his skills as a manager and knowledge of the system helped develop the top-notch air ambulance service.

Karlson works with honesty and integrity at all times. He is a straightforward communicator, who does not mince his words. Mr. Pung works diligently to ensure that the EMS system in Hawai'i continues to provide the best care possible for citizens.

I have no hesitation in recommending Karlson Pung to be a full-fledged member of the EMSAC.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Me ka pono

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kunimune", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Kunimune
Kapi'olani Community College
Emergency Medical Services Department
Paramedic Program Director
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March 17, 2017

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair of the Health Committee

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing to recommend Mr. Karlson Pung (**GM589**) to continue his position on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) Board. I've professionally known Karlson as an EMS provider for Hawaii Island for the past 23 years. Karlson is well versed in the EMS needs of our community and is very knowledgeable of our Statewide EMS system. His experienced in the prehospital setting, interfacility transport and aeromedical arena will help the EMSAC Board make sound decisions in the best interest for the residence and visitors of Hawaii Island and the State of Hawaii. I have no doubt that Mr Pung will provide valuable, unbiased input and will serve as an asset to the EMSAC Board. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above email address or office number.

Sincerely,
Lance Uchida

GM589

Karlson Pung: Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I have been involved in EMS in Hawaii since 1990. Over the years I have served in various capacities, committees, and special assignment. Although my entire career has been as an employee of ILS/AMR it has always been my focus to make improvements to the EMS “system” for the future.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

Members should be fair and open minded, not afraid to ask questions and be able to filter out the facts from information gathered. With those findings we should be able to discuss as a group and put forth the best recommendations possible to the EMS Chief.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

My years of experience have allowed for firsthand knowledge of medical standards and business practices of the providers licensed as Ambulance Providers in the State. Understanding the hands on aspects of patient care, the billing system and medical terminology used sometimes to defend decision making, I can help the consumer by advocating for stricter rules and regulations that include clear definitions to assure that proper resources are utilized. The community needs to realize that “faster” isn’t always the best choice, may it be direct patient intervention, or selection of an air or ground ambulance transport.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

In my close to 27 years of service in EMS in Hawaii, I have worked my way up from Basic EMT in 1990, Paramedic in 1992 and have been part of the ILS/AMR Management Team since 1995. I currently hold the position of Operations Manager for Hawaii County, and Program Director for AMR Air Hawaii. During my career, I have served previous terms in the EMSAC as well as SHPDA Sub area committees.

I have also had the opportunity to work closely with the Hawaii Fire Department and build a relationship based on trust and performance that has led to improvements to the Hawaii County EMS system, and overall access to care for the Hawaii Island community.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

While my generic answer would be to see improvements to the overall EMS system, as I am deeply involved in the air ambulance industry, I am well aware of some of the concerns currently circulating in this area. I would like to be able to provide guidance regarding selection of air ambulance resource that best benefits patient's needs and overall system. I would also want to look at current ambulance billing practices and help ensure that our communities can afford to be transported to facilities of specialty or higher care at a reasonable expense, while upholding a higher standard of direct patient care.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Fair – my position on the Board is to make recommendations on what is best for the patients followed by the EMS system. Although employed by an ambulance provider my history and reputation in the community is evidence that I will put patient care before business.

Truthful - prior to making any recommendation, I will make sure that proper research and due diligence is completed and decisions are based on confirmed facts.

Willing to go “outside the box” – often “systems” begin to fail because they are outdated or obsolete. I have always been a proponent to take a different approach or add something new that will help motivate positive change to the system or operation.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I have completed several levels of JUST CULTURE training. The training provides you guidance in dissecting incidents or events in an effort to make adjustments to minimize the reoccurrence of similar incidents. The process does not look for fault or consequences, but rather helps identify solutions.

I believe this training can be applied to many of the topics or situations presented to EMSAC and a very suitable way to provide input or recommendations to the EMS Chief.

I have also served previously as:

- EMSAC Board Member
 - SHPDA Sub Committee
 - Ad Hoc Educational/Licensing Committee
 - Hawaii County EMS Advisory Committee (Vice Chair)
- Operations Manager for air and ground ambulance programs.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?**

Depending on what the discussions are on, there is always the possibility that an organization or individual could declare a conflict. I would overcome conflict not by excluding myself from discussion, but rather participating in providing factual testimony that would help the rest of the committee make an informed decision should I be excluded from the actual voting process.