

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 313
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: JANUARY 31, 2017 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB 313, and defer to the Governor's Executive
2 Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. HB 313 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2017 - 2018
4 be appropriated to the DOH, Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch
5 (EMSIPSB) for emergency medical ambulance units to include vehicle, personnel, and
6 equipment for Kauai and Hawaii counties.

7 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
8 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding counties of Hawaii and
9 Kauai. This measure seeks to augment the Hawaii and Kauai County emergency medical
10 services system for the residents and visitors of both counties. DOH contracts and funds the
11 Hawaii County Fire Department to operate 15 ground ambulances and one medical helicopter on
12 the Island of Hawaii. According to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the
13 population of Hawaii County increased 6.1% from 185,079 to 196,428. No additional
14 ambulances have been authorized for Hawaii County since 2005.

15 Similarly, EMSIPSB contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide 24/7 911
16 ambulance services for Kauai County. AMR operates five ground ambulances in Kauai County.
17 According to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population grew 6.9% from
18 67,090 to 71,735. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Kauai County since 1992.

1 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch meets regularly with all
2 Hawaii emergency service providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system
3 challenges. The EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance
4 resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the
5 growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions,
6 the group identified Puna and surrounding areas of Hawaii County and Kauai County as the
7 highest areas of need.

8 These priorities were confirmed by examining Hawaii and Kauai County ambulance response
9 time data from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response
10 time for Puna and the surrounding area located in Hawaii County is 20 minutes or less. A review
11 of EMS data over a 7-year period (2010 – 2016) demonstrated that Puna area response times
12 exceeded the mandated 20-minute threshold between 16% - 39% of the time. Adding an
13 additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to this district would improve Hawaii County
14 response times.

15 The mandated DOH contracted response time for Hanalei and the surrounding area located in
16 Kauai County is 20 minutes or less. Kauai County response times in Hanalei and environs
17 exceeded the 20-minute threshold 34% of the time. Adding an additional ambulance unit and
18 personnel resources to Kauai County would improve response times.

19 The State's investment in 911 ambulance services statewide is approximately \$75 million with
20 almost \$39 million from billing being returned to the State's General fund in FY 2016. Should
21 the Legislature wish to increase the Hawaii and Kauai County EMS resources, the requisite
22 funds needed are estimated to be \$1.5 million per year for each ambulance unit (\$3.0 million
23 total) with the funds added to the EMSIPSB budget for fiscal year 2017 - 2018 and beyond. We
24 appreciate the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

25 **Offered Amendments:** None

Hawai`i State Association of Counties (HSAC)


Counties of Kaua`i, Maui, Hawai`i and City & County of Honolulu


200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 (808) 270-7665

www.hicounties.com



January 27, 2017

TO:  The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Stacy Crivello 
HSAC President

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 31, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 313, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for one ambulance unit each for the County of Kauai and County of Hawaii, including equipment, supplies and personnel costs.

This measure is included in the 2017 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

HSAC **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This legislation is consistent with the recommended proposal by officials of the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Injury Prevention Branch, during their presentation to HSAC on Sept. 26, 2016. It is consistent with an agreement among provider agencies that Kauai County and Hawaii County are prioritized to receive new ambulances.
2. According to the state EMS department, no funding has been received for new ambulances in the past three years.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HSAC:FY2017:17Testimony:HB313a_mkz

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Committee on Health
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Belatti:

Subject: HB 313, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017
Time/Place of Hearing: 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department, County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The HCFD supports HB 313 which appropriates funds for one ambulance unit each for the County of Kauai and the County of Hawai'i, including equipment, supplies and personnel costs.

The district of Puna is approximately 500 square miles with population of 45,326 (2010 census), comparatively Puna is larger than the island of Oahu. Puna has become the fastest growing district in the State of Hawai'i, with a population increase of 44% since 2000. Over the next 15 years the population of Puna is expected to be 75,000.

Kīlauea volcano, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, is located in Puna within the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and has been erupting continuously for over 30 years. Kīlauea volcano has had a tremendous impact on Puna and the island as a whole, releasing 2000 metric tons of sulfur dioxide daily and producing continuous lava flows that periodically threaten populated Puna communities. On the upside, Kīlauea volcano has become one of the top attractions in the State of Hawai'i, drawing an estimated 2 million annual visitors.

Because of the geographic, economic and transportation challenges of the Puna district, the Hawai'i Fire Department's (HFD) emergency medical services (EMS) has become the access point for health care to many residents and visitors of Puna. The progressive increase in population has led to a 32% increase in 911 EMS calls over the past 5 years and the district of Puna alone is responsible for 28% of all 911 EMS calls island wide.



The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
January 30, 2017
Page 2

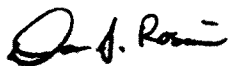
Recent analysis of HFD data shows that there have been approximately four hundred seventy-six (476) EMS incidents per month in the district of Puna. Due to long response and transport times, an entire call may take 2 hours or more. It has become common for paramedics to have ten (10) transports or more in a twenty-four-hour shift, equating to a potential of an excess of twenty (20) hours of continuous work within a 24-hour period. The potential for fatigue resulting in errors in judgment, driving, and overall safety are of great concern for personnel and residents.

EMS call volume has crept up year by year with no increase in EMS services to the Puna district; with the projected population increase this will no doubt continue and impact HFD's ability to deliver high quality EMS services. This increase in Puna's call volume is also having a collateral impact on two of HFD's busiest ambulances located in Hilo, Medic's 1 and 3 operating out of the Central and Kawaihoni Fire Stations respond to a combined 34 % of all Hawai'i County 911 EMS calls. Medic's 1 and 3 cover the Puna district when the Puna units are unavailable. Since 2007 there has been a 50% increase in responses from Medics 1 and 3 into the Puna District and there are numerous times when the majority of our East Hawai'i ambulances, Medics 1, 3, 5, 10, 19 are all covering calls in the Puna district leaving the most populated area on Hawai'i Island (Hilo) without adequate services.

The Hawai'i Fire Department would like to expand EMS services to the residents of Puna by placing an additional ambulance at the Pahoa Fire Station. This additional ambulance positioned in lower Puna is critical to meet the ever-increasing demands for emergency medical services on Hawai'i Island and crucial to serving the needs of Puna. This additional EMS asset will ensure that HFD can maintain high level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change. An additional advanced life support ambulance will help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors on the island of Hawai'i; as a timely response to a 911 call is critical to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes for injured or sick individuals. Given the island's significant growth and aging population, an additional advanced life support ambulance is needed and will be cost-effective. The HCFD urges you to support HB 313.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or Darren.Rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Arryl Kaneshiro
Derek S.K. Kawakami
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
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E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

January 27, 2017

TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO
COUNCIL CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 313, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES
House Committee on Health
Tuesday, January 31, 2017
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 313, Making An Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2017 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kaua'i County Council and as Secretary of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health to purchase one ambulance unit each for the islands of Kaua'i and Hawai'i, including costs equipment, supplies, and personnel. The added ambulance unit and personnel will enable the counties to provide critical services necessary for the safety of our residents and visitors.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Health to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MEL RAPOZO
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:dmc

kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:10 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM*

HB313

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American Medical Response	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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 2:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tito.villanueva@amr.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tito Villanueva	American Medical Response	Support	Yes

Comments: I am in strong support of HB313. I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB313 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for County of Kauai and County of Hawaii.

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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HB313

My name is Errol McGowan,

I have lived and worked here on Kauai for 9 years. I am a Paramedic here on Kauai as well. I am writing in SUPPORT of Bill HB313

I see first hand every single shift how important an additional 911 Ambulance and Station would be for the residence and visitors of Kauai. Due to a large increase in our visitors and increase in population, we stretch our current resources daily. If you are sick or injured on a busy day you may not get Advanced Life Support care for up to an additional ½ or so depending where our 5 units are for the day. On top of running 911, a few of our 911 units also have to provide non emergent transfer services during the evening and day if we do not have a transfer crew. The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. The North Shore of Kauai is a large district which covers Moloaa, Kilauea, Princeville, Hanalei, Wainiha, and Ke'e Beach Park. Outside the Kilauea Unit, the nearest ambulance station is located Kapaa. The time line to reach the only acute hospital on Kauai can be forty minutes or more. Similarly, the ambulance unit on the west district covers Eleele, Hanapepe, Kaumakani, Waimea, Kekaha, Polihale Beach Park, and up Kokee State Park. Response and transport times to the only Level 3 trauma center on Kauai may even take longer. If the ambulance that responds to a call for emergency medical service must respond from an out-of-district location, the response time is even longer. The movement of ambulances with patients from their own district creates a domino effect of lack of emergency medical services to other areas. A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual. AMR has been continuously providing optimum EMS services above and beyond the funding it receives from the State. During flash flood conditions where Hanalei Bridge is closed, AMR provides additional ambulance unit to cover the Hanalei to Ke'e areas at no cost to the County or State. I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB313 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for Kauai.

Respectfully

Errol S. McGowan

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 5:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: There has been no expansion in EMS resources on Kauai since 1992. Population & tourist growth dictates increase need to decrease response times to 911 cases. Likewise EMS needs for island of Hawaii will decrease out-of-district responses with longer response times. Please approve!!

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House of Representatives
The 29th Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Health

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair. Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair.

Members:

Rep. Sharon E. Har. Rep. Chris Todd. Rep. Dee Morikawa.
Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola. Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro

Written Testimony By:

Jillian Kelekoma

Mother, Wife, Daughter, Community Servant, Paramedic, Critical Care Paramedic,
Flight Paramedic, Instructor, and EMS Coordinator for the County of Kauai

The following written testimony is in

SUPPORT OF

HB313/HB322

Making an appropriation for Emergency Medical Services

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Health,

Kauai has long been known as a County that has been able to make ends meet, and always provide EXCELLENT emergency medical care, regardless of the budget. Here on Kauai there are many sayings, stickers, etc. that boast our Kauai pride in "Keeping Country, Country" and "Keeping it Kauai". Well, the secret is out, and Kauai has become a destination spot for the world, and now we are humbly asking for your assistance. We currently have (5) 24hr-7 day a week advanced life support ambulances for our County, and these units are tasked with covering the ENTIRE COUNTY. Mind you, the amount of resources we are able to coordinate and use does not fluctuate with the increase of visitors and residents to our island. But, we still provide an amazing service. HB313 and HB322 will appropriate funding, equipment, supplies, operational costs, and personnel costs for an additional advanced life support ambulance.

This impacts Kauai is so many ways. First, we can keep our highly trained personnel that are born and raised on Kauai, here, in Kauai. Second, we WILL improve our response time to the County of Kauai with an advanced life support ambulance and providers. Lastly, and most importantly, it allows us to care for each other, our neighbors, our families, our visitors, in a way we have been longing to provide for many years. Kauai, her residents, and her visitors deserve that.

I am nearing 20 years of service in the field of Emergency Medical Services, and I have seen the evolution worldwide. I, as well as my family, humbly and respectfully ask for your support of HB313 and HB322.



Jillian Kelekoma
jillian@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Trailrunnerkauai@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia jennings	Individual	Support	No

Comments: County of Kauai is very prosperous. With the economic up rise there has been a huge movement of residence and visitors. Our 911 call volume has risen substantial. Many times ambulances are left leaving their designated areas to cover vast distances...an additional ambulance station would help peoples medical emergencies, get addressed within an appropriate time and chances of better medical outcomes for our community

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January 31, 2017

To: The Honorable Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Re: HB 313: Relating to EMS

My name is Speedy Bailey and I am the Regional Director for American Medical Response (AMR) in Hawaii.

I am in strong support of HB 313. AMR provides 911 services on Kauai and Maui County, serving residents and visitors with access to high quality pre-hospital emergency care through a contract with Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch (EMSIPSB).

Passage of HB 313 would add significantly to the level of care to our visitors and residents as well as having faster response time during their emergency needs. The need for pre-hospital emergency medical response has been increasing and continues to increase due to Hawaii's population growth, aging demographic and an increase in the number of households and visitors.

According to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population of Kauai grew 6.9% from 67,090 to 71,735. The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. The population for Kauai at that time was ~ 50,000. There have been no additional rapid response or ambulance units since. It is anticipated that Kauai's population demographic will change and include an aging population over the next few years. This increase demand for services requires additional resources.

Similarly, according to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population of Hawaii County increased 6.1% from 185,079 to 196,428. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Hawaii County since 2005.

The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch (EMSIPSB) meet regularly with all of Hawaii's EMS providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system challenges. The EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions, the group identified Kauai and Hawaii County as the areas of highest need.

These priorities were confirmed by examining Hawaii and Kauai County ambulance response time data from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response times for Puna, Hawaii and Hanalei, Kauai respectively is 20 minutes or less. The data demonstrates that over the 7-year period (2010 – 2016) the Puna area response times exceeded the mandated 20 minute threshold between 16% - 39% of the time. Kauai County response times in Hanalei and environs exceeded the 20 minute threshold 34% of the time. Adding additional ambulance units and personnel resources to these districts will improve response times.

These ambulance units will add to the existing resources on Kauai and Hawaii Island and it will help reduce death and disability among residents.

I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB 313 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for Kauai and the County of Hawaii.

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.
Managing Director

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

Kilipaki K. F. Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief



January 30, 2017

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
Committee on Health
State House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 402
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Belatti:

Subject: HB 313 Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services

I am Robert F. Westerman Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD supports HB 313, which makes an appropriation for emergency medical services.

American Medical Response (AMR) provides ambulance services on Kauai, serving residents and visitors with access to high quality pre-hospital emergency care through a contract with Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch. Passage of HB 313, would add significantly to the level of care to our visitors and residents as well as having faster response time during their emergency needs. Pre-hospital emergency medical response has been increasing and continues to increase due to Kauai's population growth, aging demographic and an increase in the number of households and visitors.

The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. There have been no additional rapid response or ambulance units since. It is anticipated that Kauai's population demographic will change and include an aging population over the next few years. This increase demand for services requires additional resources. The North Shore of Kauai is a large district which covers Moloaa, Kilauea, Princeville, Hanalei, Wainiha, and Ke'e Beach Park. Outside the Kilauea Unit, the nearest ambulance station is located Kapaa. The timeline to reach the only acute hospital on Kauai can be forty minutes or more. Similarly, the ambulance unit on the west district covers Eleele, Hanapepe, Kaumakani, Waimea, Kekaha, Polihale Beach Park, and up Kokee State Park. Response and transport times to the only Level 3 trauma center on Kauai may even take longer. If the ambulance that responds to a call for emergency medical service

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair

Page 2

January 30, 2017

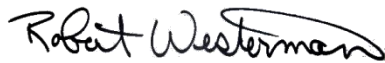
must respond from an out-of-district location, the response time is even longer. The movement of ambulances with patients from their own district creates a domino effect of lack of emergency medical services to other areas.

A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual. AMR has been continuously providing optimum EMS services above and beyond the funding it receives from the State. During flashflood conditions where Hanalei Bridge is closed, AMR provides additional ambulance unit to cover the Hanalei to Ke'e areas at no cost to the County or State. A rapid response unit complements and adds to the existing resources that Kauai already has. It will help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors by providing immediate response to what was outlined previously.

The KFD urges your committee's passage of HB 313 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services Rapid Response Unit for Kauai.

Please call me at (808) 241-4975 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

LATE**HB322**

My name is Steven Arellanes,

I have lived and worked here on Kauai for 11 years. I am a Paramedic here on Kauai as well. I am writing in SUPPORT of Bill HB322

I see firsthand every single shift how important an additional 911 Ambulance and Station would be for the residence and visitors of Kauai. Due to a large increase in our visitors and increase in population, we stretch our current resources daily. If you are sick or injured on a busy day you may not get Advanced Life Support care for up to an additional ½ or so depending where our 5 units are for the day. On top of running 911, a few of our 911 units also have to provide non emergent transfer services during the evening and day if we do not have a transfer crew. The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. The North Shore of Kauai is a large district which covers Moloaa, Kilauea, Princeville, Hanalei, Wainiha, and Ke'e Beach Park. Outside the Kilauea Unit, the nearest ambulance station is located Kapaa. The time line to reach the only acute hospital on Kauai can be forty minutes or more. Similarly, the ambulance unit on the west district covers Eleele, Hanapepe, Kaumakani, Waimea, Kekaha, Polihale Beach Park, and up Kokee State Park. Response and transport times to the only Level 3 trauma center on Kauai may even take longer. If the ambulance that responds to a call for emergency medical service must respond from an out-of-district location, the response time is even longer. The movement of ambulances with patients from their own district creates a domino effect of lack of emergency medical services to other areas. A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual. AMR has been continuously providing optimum EMS services above and beyond the funding it receives from the State. During flash flood conditions where Hanalei Bridge is closed, AMR provides additional ambulance unit to cover the Hanalei to Ke'e areas at no cost to the County or State. I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB313 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for Kauai.

Respectfully

Steven Y Arellanes

January 31, 2017

LATE

TO:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Members:

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Chris Todd

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro

FROM: Tito Villanueva
Kauai EMS Chief
Operations Manager, American Medical Response—Kauai County

RE: SUPPORT TESTIMONY HB313

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Tito Villanueva. I am the operations manager for American Medical Response- the ambulance service provider on Kauai.

I am in agreement and fully support the Emergency Medical Services Provider Group's recommendation for additional ambulance units for Kauai County and the Puna district in Hawaii County. DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch confirmed these priorities by examining ambulance response time data from the pre-hospital EMS database.

The last time a new ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. Since then our population has increased significantly. According to US Census figures, between 2010 and 2015, the population of Kauai grew from 67,090 to 71,735- a 6.9% increase. It is anticipated that Kauai's population demographic will change and include an aging population over the next few years. This increased demand for services will require additional resources. A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual.

Kauai County Population	Year	Number of residents
Resident population	1990	51,676
De facto population	1990	68,558
Resident population	2015	71,400
De facto population	2015	89,500
Projected resident pop	2025	80,000
Projected de facto pop	2025	99,800
Source: DBEDT http://hawaiiieconomicdata.com/		

The North Shore of Kauai is a large district which covers Moloaa, Kilauea, Princeville, Hanalei, Wainiha, and Ke’e Beach Park. It takes forty (40) minutes or more to reach the only acute hospital on Kauai. There’s one unit in Kilauea that covers the entire district.

Total transport from the Hanalei area (area code 96714 only not including Princeville and Kilauea/Moloa) in a six years period (2010 – 2015) were nine hundred seventeen (917), three hundred nine (309) of these calls took greater than 20 minutes for the ambulance to arrive on scene. Thirty four percent (34) of these calls exceeded the mandated response time of twenty (20) minutes. This is large due to the greater than 120 minute turnaround time in the district.

Additionally, other ambulance units respond from other districts about eleven (11) percent of the time..

Similarly, the ambulance unit on the west district covers Eleele, Hanapepe, Kaumakani, Waimea, Kekaha, Polihale Beach Park, and large area Kokee State Park. Transport times to the only Level 3 Trauma and Stroke center (Wilcox Hospital) on Kauai may even take longer. If the ambulance that responds to a call for emergency medical service must respond from an out-of-district location, the response time is even longer. The movement of ambulances from their own district creates a domino effect to other service areas.

Adding additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to Kauai County will improve response times. This unit will also be a resource for the Hanalei district during flashflood conditions where the Hanalei Bridge is closed. Currently, AMR provides additional ambulance service for the Hanalei district when access to the area is closed, at no cost to the County or State.

I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB 313 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for the County of Kauai and the Puna district, Hawaii County.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: rescuemeplease@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:25:25 PM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan McKnight	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please allow this bill to pass-Kauai is in desperate need of more Emergency Medical Services!

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: tiffanys98@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:58:23 PM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Sentani	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in support of HB 216 for Community Paramedic to help educate patients with their health conditions, support their at home care and help reduced the 911 emergency transports for non emergent conditions. It has been my experience that many of these patients need more supportive care and if needed the community Paramedics could make the decision to activate EMS.

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To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: tiffanys98@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:30:22 PM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Sentani	AMR Kauai Paramedics	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of HB313. As a 20 plus year Paramedics of Kauai County I have seen the growth of the population with urban development and visitor leading to an increase in per hospital emergency request. Another full time 24 hour 7 day a week ALS ambulance would greatly help Kauai County. Please pass this bill and support a valuable resource that saves lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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January 31, at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 313

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich
CEO, Wilcox Memorial Hospital

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 313

My name is Jen Chahanovich and I am the chief executive officer of Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Memorial Hospital is a not-for-profit hospital dedicated to providing the Kaua'i community with accessible, quality health care. Wilcox is the largest medical facility on Kaua'i and has been recognized as one of the nation's best small hospitals. With 185 physicians on staff, Wilcox Memorial Hospital offers island residents and visitors expert diagnosis and treatment for more than 22 specialties. It is a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a full suite of services including emergency, OB/GYN, pediatrics, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pulmonology, nephrology, orthopedics, neurology, internal medicine and family practice.

I am writing in **support** of HB 313 which appropriates funds for one ambulance unit each for the County of Kaua'i and the County of Hawai'i, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs. Timely access to life-saving health care is essential for all communities. The availability of ambulances and emergency medical personnel are critical components to making sure patients are transported to hospitals as quickly as possible and greatly improves outcomes. The appropriation provided in this measure will enhance the delivery of emergency medical services and remove some of the barriers to obtaining needed services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: jeisenbach@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB313 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:06:17 PM

HB313

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Eisenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have lived on Kauai since 1989 and have seen tremendous growth. As a part time EMT working for AMR I have also seen the problems we have when there are simultaneous 911 calls. One station (nearest) responds , and their assigned area is un covered until they return from their call. The nearest station must cover both their assigned area and the former station's area. When the next call comes in an area could be without coverage for well over 30 minutes. In the event of a life threatening situation that is too long. There are too many potentially un covered areas which can only be remedied by additional stations. Mahalo for your Kokua.

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