



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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 322
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: January 31, 2017 830AM

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB 322, and defer to the Governor's Executive
2 Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. HB 322 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2017 - 2018
4 be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the DOH, Emergency
5 Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB) for the purchase of an
6 ambulance vehicle and the operational costs for one ambulance unit. Operational costs include
7 equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services
8 personnel. This ambulance unit is to be a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week service for the
9 county of Kauai.

10 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
11 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding counties of Hawaii and
12 Kauai. This measure seeks to augment Kauai County emergency medical services system for the
13 residents and visitors of both counties. DOH contracts and funds contracts with American
14 Medical Response (AMR) to provide 24/7 911 ambulance services for Kauai County. AMR
15 operates five ground ambulances on Kauai county. According to US Census figures, between
16 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population grew 6.9% from 67,090 to 71,735. No additional
17 ambulances have been authorized for Kauai County since 1992.

18 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch meets regularly with all of
19 Hawaii's emergency service providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system
20 challenges. This EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance

1 resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the
2 growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions,
3 the group identified Kauai County as an area of high need.

4 This finding was confirmed by examining Kauai County ambulance response time data from the
5 DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response times for Hanalei
6 and the surrounding area located in Kauai County is 20 minutes or less. Kauai County response
7 times in Hanalei and environs exceeded the 20 minute threshold 34% of the time. Adding an
8 additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to Kauai County would improve response
9 times.

10 The State's investment in 911 ambulance services statewide is approximately \$75 million with
11 almost \$39 million from billing being returned to the State's General fund in FY 2016. Should
12 the Legislature wish to increase the Hawaii and Kauai County EMS resources, the requisite
13 funds needed are estimated to be \$1.5 million per year for the Kauai ambulance with the funds
14 added to the EMSIPSB budget for fiscal year 2017 - 2018 and beyond.

15

16 We appreciate the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

17

18 **Offered Amendments:** None

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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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 322, 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 322, Making An Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2017 Kaua'i County Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to purchase an ambulance vehicle and fund the costs associated with operating the ambulance on a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week basis on the island of Kaua'i. Ambulatory services on Kaua'i are crucial to the survival rate for anyone in an emergency situation. Ambulatory services is a critical service that is needed for everyone on the island of Kaua'i.

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: Sunday, January 29, 2017 1:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tito.villanueva@amr.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB322

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 HB322. I respectfully urge your committee's passage to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for Kauai.

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:09 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM*

HB322

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:

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HB322

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 HB322

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 5:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB322

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.

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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

kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Trailrunnerkauai@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM*

HB322

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:

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 3:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB322

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
Brandon Kawika Nerpio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Community paramedic programs have been shown to be integral parts of forward- looking EMS systems. They appreciate the intersection of public health and emergency services. Nationally and internationally, however, the structure and functionality of these programs vary greatly. This working group will ensure that Hawaii develops a community paramedic program that is well- suited to our state and effective in improving health and safety in the community. Thank you for your consideration.

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 3:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB322

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
Byron Vance	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Community paramedic programs have been shown to be integral parts of forward- looking EMS systems. They appreciate the intersection of public health and emergency services. Nationally and internationally, however, the structure and functionality of these programs vary greatly. This working group will ensure that Hawaii develops a community paramedic program that is well- suited to our state and effective in improving health and safety in the community. Thank you for your consideration.

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:58 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM*

HB322

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
Byron Vance	Kauai Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: rwesterman@kauai.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM*

HB322

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
Robert Westerman	Kauai Fire Department	Support	No

Comments:

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HB322**LATE**

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 1/2 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 HB322

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Tito Villanueva. I am the operations manager for American Medical Response- 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://hawaiieconomicdata.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 year 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 largely due to the greater 120 minute turnaround time in the district.

Additionally, other ambulance units respond from other districts to Hanalei 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 of 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 an 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 when the Hanalei Bridge is closed. Currently, AMR provides an 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 322 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for the County of Kauai.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: tiffanys98@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:35:50 PM

HB322

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 HB322. As a 20 plus year Paramedic of Kauai County I have seen the growth of the population with urban development and visitors leading to an increase in pre hospital emergency request. Another full time 24 hours 7 day a week ambulance would greatly benefit 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 329

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 322

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 322 which appropriates moneys to the Department of Health for FY 2017-2018 to purchase an ambulance vehicle and for the costs of operating a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week, ambulance unit for the County of Kaua'i. 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 HB322 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:58:07 PM

HB322

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 been a resident of Kauai since 1989 and there has been a growth here that no one would have predicted . I work part time for AMR as an EMT and have seen the uncovered areas on our island when an ambulance is either responding to a 911 call ...or covering the next station's area in that stations absence. Simply put our island needs more stations. Mahalo for your Kokua

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