



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 837**  
**RELATING TO HEALTH**

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 837, and defer to the Governor's Executive  
2 Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel  
3 priorities. HB 837 requests \$1,260,135 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
4 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019  
5 be appropriated to the DOH, Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch  
6 (EMSIPSB) for one advanced life support ambulance to be: (1) Based in Puna on the island of  
7 Hawaii; and (2) Used during daily peak hours from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to include the  
8 acquisition of a vehicle and equipment and funding personnel costs for state-certified emergency  
9 medical service personnel.

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 the Hawaii County emergency medical services system  
13 for the residents and visitors of both counties. DOH contracts and funds the Hawaii County Fire  
14 Department to operate 15 ground ambulances and one medical helicopter on the Island of  
15 Hawaii. According to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population of  
16 Hawaii County increased 6.1% from 185,079 to 196,428. No additional ambulances have been  
17 authorized for Hawaii County since 2005.

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 Puna and surrounding areas of Hawaii County one of areas of highest need.

4 These priorities were confirmed by examining Hawaii County ambulance response time data  
5 from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response times for  
6 Puna surrounding areas located in Hawaii County is 20 minutes or less. A review of EMS data  
7 over a 7-year period (2010 – 2016) demonstrated that Puna area response times exceeded the  
8 mandated 20 minute threshold between 16% - 39% of the time. Adding an additional ambulance  
9 unit and personnel resources to this district would improve Hawaii County response times.  
10 Should the legislature decide to increase services to the Puna area the Department recommends  
11 the service hours be 24/7 to provide added flexibility to EMS personnel in emergency response.  
12 The addition of 24/7 services would increase the funding needs to \$1.5 million per year.

13 The State's investment in 911 ambulance services statewide is approximately \$75 million with  
14 almost \$39 million from billing being returned to the State's General fund in FY 2016.

15

16 We appreciate the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

17

18 **Offered Amendments:** None

**kobayashi2 - Jessi**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 5:26 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** csmorimoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB837 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

**Categories:** Red Category

**HB837**

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Puna is growing. Increase EMS needs are always beneficial to reduce response time minutes to medical emergencies. Please approve!!

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

kobayashi2 - Jessi

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:56 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB837 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

**HB837**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Puna is the fastest growing district. Increased EMS coverage is critical to Puna

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

kobayashi1- Oshiro

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:54 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: ecabatu@hhsc.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB837 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

**HB837**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation consisting of Hilo Medical Center, our Critical Access Hospitals, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua in Honoka`a and Ka`u Hospital, our 9 specialty clinics and our over 1,200 employees, please accept our "Organizational Support."

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929  
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
WEBSITE: [www.hawaiifirefighters.org](http://www.hawaiifirefighters.org)

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017  
January 31, 2017

**LATE**

Committee on Health

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 603                      Relating to Health  
H.B. No. 837                      Relating to Health

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, representing approximately 2,000 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State, strongly supports H.B. 603 and H.B. No. 837. More than 340 HFFA members serve the County of Hawaii and the Hawaii Fire Department is the only fire-based EMS service among the four County fire departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters.

HFFA strongly supports H.B. No. 603 and H.B. 837 as a number of factors that warrants the need for the additional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) unit. Factors including the increase in EMS call volume, population growth, and challenges with access to primary and acute care supports these requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and HFFA respectfully requests favorable consideration of these measures.