

SB971

Measure Title: RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Report Title: Emergency Medical Services Special Fund, Appropriation. (\$)

Description: Repeals the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and deposits moneys from the fund's revenue sources into the general fund, and appropriates an equivalent amount of general funds for the Department of Health.

Companion: [HB1105](#)

Package: Governor

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

MARIA E. ZIELINSKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Health

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

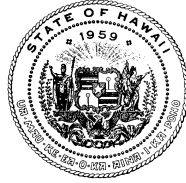
Re: S.B. 971, Relating to Emergency Medical Services

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 971 and provides the following comments for your consideration.

S.B. 971 repeals the emergency medical services special fund and repeals the allocations to the fund under chapters 245 and 249, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The measure appropriates an equivalent amount to the Department of Health to administer the statewide comprehensive emergency medical services system. S.B. 971 is effective July 1, 2017.

The Department can administer the changes to the Cigarette Tax and Tobacco Tax Law under chapter 245 as created by this measure by the effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 971
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 8, 2017 9a Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Conversion of \$14,796,503 in special funds to general funds. Note: This
2 proposal is based on revenue projections made prior to the January 4, 2017 forecast of the
3 Council on Revenues.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports SB 971, Relating to
5 Emergency Medical Services, which is part of Governor Ige's administrative package.

6 Hawaii's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system is a statewide full-time professional
7 operation serving residents and visitors,

8 If enacted, SB 971 and state EMS policy as a whole must preserve the current level of funding as
9 of July 1, 2016, regardless of source of revenue or method of finance, to assure uninterrupted
10 services and continuity of the system. This measure proposes the abolishment of the EMS
11 Special Fund and redirects its deposits into the general fund for purposes of budget neutrality.
12 Furthermore, it is the intention of the department to request the equivalent amount in general
13 funds to be added to its base budget for fiscal year 2018 and for fiscal year 2019.

14 Technical Information

15 General funds comprise approximately 80% of the EMS system's funding. The revenue deposits
16 in scope for SB 971 comprise the remaining 20%. Those deposits are authorized by section 321-
17 234, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and consist of:

- 18
- \$1.25 per each cigarette sold pursuant to section 245-15, HRS;

- 1 • \$5 from each annual motor vehicle registration fee pursuant to section 249-31, HRS; and
2 • Interest and investment earnings attributable to the moneys in the EMS Special Fund.

3 Total revenue deposits from all sources into the EMS Special Fund in FY2016 were
4 \$15,490,367.46.

5 Total expenditures from the EMS Special Fund in FY2016 were \$13,426,984.26.

6 The remaining encumbrances, in the EMS Special Fund as of June 30, 2016, were
7 \$10,217,202,01.

8 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
Phone: (808) 723-7800 • Fax: (808) 723-7836



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
ACTING DIRECTOR

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health
The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Re: SB971 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Dear Chair Baker and Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division, is opposed to SB971.

Health issues attributed to smoking last a life time. Even though we see declining rates of smoking, medical issues have already started. We respond to many medical issues that are directly and indirectly related to use of cigarettes. Additionally, the vehicle tax for registration designated for this fund is equally important. We respond to many pedestrian and traffic accidents.

At the City and County of Honolulu alone, Emergency Medical Services responded to 90,452 calls last year. Five years ago, which was the last time we added another ambulance unit, we responded to 77,134 calls. That is a 15% increase in call volume. It is difficult to take care of the community when we don't have the funds to sustain ambulances, equipment, personnel and the ever growing population.

We need additional funding in addition to the general fund to support the ever growing EMS system. Decrease in any type of funding or funding source will make it very challenging.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, are opposed to SB971.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian T.T. Santee", is written over a horizontal line.

Ian T.T. Santee
Acting Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 8:07 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB971 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

SB971

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Foster	Kauai Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments: Ambulance funding is competing for limited special funds, all ambulance revenue goes to the general fund. It is my feeling more funding should come out of the general fund to support EMS. Thank you Mike Foster MICT 00142

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: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:40 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jeisenbach@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB971 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

SB971

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I have been a resident of the state of Hawaii since 1989. Currently I work in a part time capacity as an EMT on the island of Kauai. I support SB971 and want to thank the sponsors of this bill. Money is always tight but is severely needed in the EMS arena. Mahalo for your Kokua.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:43 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: emtsdoorish@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB971 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

SB971

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sasha Doorish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:04 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: barbdaumiller@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB971 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

SB971

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Daumiller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a tax payer, and voter, I support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 9:40 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: kellyching@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB971 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

SB971

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a good strategy to redirect and maintain funds for a necessary service given our changing economic environment.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:17 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB971 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

SB971

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB971

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 SB971

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 SB971 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for Kauai.

Respectfully

Errol S. McGowan