

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1313  
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 2, 2017 8:30 am

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB 1313, and defer to the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel  
3 priorities. HB 1313 requests an amount of \$250,000 from general funds for fiscal year 2017 –  
4 2018 and FY 2018 -2019 be appropriated to the DOH, Emergency Medical Services & Injury  
5 Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB) for an emergency medical ambulance unit to include  
6 ambulance unit including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for Honolulu County, Ewa  
7 Beach. HB 1313 also requests \$120,000 for both fiscal years for rent and other associated costs.

8 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing  
9 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding community of Ewa Beach. This  
10 measure seeks to augment the Honolulu emergency medical services system for the residents and  
11 visitors of the island of Oahu by adding an additional emergency medical ambulance unit to the  
12 existing Ewa Beach unit. DOH contracts and funds the Emergency Services Department, City  
13 and County of Honolulu to operate 20 ground ambulances and 2 rapid response units. Currently,  
14 Ewa Beach is one of the 20 ground ambulance sites. The Ewa Beach unit was added in 2012.  
15 This unit operates 12 hours per day. A new ambulance vehicle conservatively has a base cost  
16 of \$250,000. This does not include equipment, supplies, or staffing which increase the annual  
17 cost to approximately \$1.5 million dollars.

18 According to US Census figures, between 2010 and 2015, the population of Honolulu County  
19 increased 4.8% from 953,207 to 998,714. Using data from the DOH pre-hospital emergency  
20 medical database, we examined county ambulance response times for the 7-year period 2010 –

1 2016, ambulance response times exceeded the maximum contracted response time of 15 minutes  
2 one out of seven times.

3 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch meets regularly with all  
4 Hawaii emergency service providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system  
5 challenges. The EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance  
6 resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the  
7 growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions,  
8 the group did not identify Ewa Beach as high need priority area at this time. Optimizing the  
9 current Ewa Beach unit would be of primary importance.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE  
ACTING DIRECTOR

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017

Re: HB1313 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division provides comments on HB1313.

The Emergency Medical Services Division supports additional funding for another much-needed ambulance in Honolulu. However, in discussion with the State Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office, this is not a priority this year. We support the efforts of the State EMS Office to be one voice and understand our support is towards additional EMS units in Hawaii County and Kauai County for this fiscal year. This is with the understanding that next fiscal year, an EMS unit will be added to the City and County of Honolulu. We would like to have the ambulance in the area where the need is the greatest.

We have 18 EMS units that are 24-hours and 2 EMS units that are 12-hour units. The last time an EMS unit was added to the Metropolitan area was in 2005. Ewa Beach was the last unit to be added in 2012. Emergency Medical Services responded to 90,452 calls last year. Five years ago, when Ewa Beach was added, we responded to 77,134 calls. That is a 15% increase in call volume.

The Honolulu District consists of 5 EMS units covering the area from the ocean to the mountain, and west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to east of Ala Lilikoi. The average response time is 8 minutes in urban Honolulu.

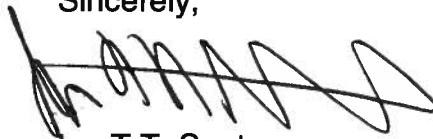
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
February 1, 2017  
Page 2

The 5 metropolitan units alone responded to 36,114 calls. That is 40% of the call volume. If you include adjacent units Wailupe and Aiea into that figure, since they are constantly covering the town area, it increases to 52%. Over half of our total call volume is run by 7 units. There is a definite need for another ambulance in Kakaako area to help out the town units.

In the Kakaako area, the calls went from 4,607 calls in 2012, to 7,666 calls in 2016. In 2013, Ewa Beach responded to 2,624 calls, and in 2016 they responded to 2,489 calls. It is of the utmost importance that EMS opens another unit. It is harder to provide the response times that we strive for with the increase in call volume. With all the new buildings coming up in the Kakaako area, the call volume is going to continue to increase. We need another ambulance in that area to assist with the other 5 town units.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, are grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian T.T. Santee', written over a horizontal line.

Ian T.T. Santee  
Acting Director



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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Thursday, February 2, 2017, 8:30 a.m., Room 329

HB 1313 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**TESTIMONY**

Joy A Marshall, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Belatti and Morikawa, Vice-Chairs Kobayashi and Todd and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 1313** as our position on access to health care supports adding an ambulance, ambulance service and personnel to make the ambulance and advance life support service safer and more accessible for the residents of Ewa Beach.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [adamcfeely@gmail.com](mailto:adamcfeely@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1313 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:23:51 AM

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**HB1313**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ada mcfeely	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1313 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:34:45 AM

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**HB1313**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Kamaka	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I am in very strong support for ambulance in Ewa Beach. In 2016 Ocean Pointe was ranked the fastest growing community in the State. Population 2014 was 10,502 Population 2010: 6,078 Growth Rate: 72.79% Absolute Growth: 4,424 We need another ambulance to meet our needs. Mahalo

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