

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1410
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 2, 2017, 08:30 am Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB 1410, and defer to the Governor's
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. This measure seeks to transfer the regulation of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
4 including ambulance and patient care operations from the DOH to the state's four counties.
5 Additionally, this measure allocates a portion of the transient accommodations tax to the counties
6 for ambulance operation. DOH funding will be markedly decreased limiting the Department's
7 EMS leadership and oversight.

8 **Department Testimony:** The DOH is charged with the administration of the State's
9 Comprehensive EMS system (HRS 321-221). Transferring the regulatory authority of EMS
10 operations, and unit licensing to each of the four counties will fragment a comprehensive
11 cohesive and effective statewide EMS system. Hawaii's EMS system was designed to ensure
12 911 emergency care for Hawaii's residents and visitors be available 24/7 everywhere in the state
13 no matter how rural.

14 Hawaii has a strong and effective statewide EMS system not seen in mainland jurisdictions. The
15 current system offers single policy and practice oversight with a statewide pre-hospital EMS
16 medical record system. Economies of scale will be lost. For example, the DOH maintains a
17 single statewide billing system designed to process all billings and collections. In FY 2016, the
18 State allocated approximately \$75 million dollars for EMS care with almost \$39 million from
19 insurance reimbursement being deposited into the state's general fund. This was the direct result
20 the unified billing and collection system. Under this bill the economies of scale would be lost by

1 authorizing each of the four counties to establish four duplicative billing systems. A unified
2 medical record system to ensure proper patient care and quality improvement would also be lost.
3 Without the DOH's regulatory authority, differing and conflicting EMS system standards
4 through different system administrations will exist possibly compromising patient care.

5 Fundamentally, transferring the DOH's regulatory authority to the counties will negate the
6 DOH's effectiveness in establishing and maintaining meaningful operational and patient care
7 standards. Hawaii's statewide comprehensive 24/7 911 emergency services would be in
8 jeopardy.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




Director of Council Services
Sandy K. Baz

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 31, 2017

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

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO
HB 1410, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this measure. The purpose of this measure is to transfer the regulation of ambulance services from the state Department of Health to the counties and allocate a portion of the transient accommodations tax to the counties for ambulance regulation and operation.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I strongly oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. Transferring the operation, maintenance, and regulation of ambulance services from the state to the counties, with no adjustments to the counties' respective portions of the TAT, will put an unreasonable financial burden upon local government. As the counties have repeatedly explained to the state legislature, the counties' current share of the TAT is inadequate to pay for the ever increasing costs of county provided services such as water and sewer, police, fire and ocean safety protection, and road maintenance. I stand in opposition to this proposal that seeks to shift the cost of ambulance services to the counties, requires those services to be paid out of TAT funds, and fails to allocate any additional TAT revenues to the counties to pay for the services.
2. As we face negotiations for all 14 bargaining units this year, which may mean millions of dollars in salary increases and payments to the ERS that the counties will have to fund in the near future, this proposal is unconscionable and shows a deep lack of concern regarding county operations.
3. The current relationship and partnership in services the counties have with the state Emergency Management System should be maintained where ambulance services fall under the DOH.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **oppose** this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: robert.carroll@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1410 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:54:29 PM

HB1410

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Carroll	County Council of Maui	Oppose	No

Comments: HB 1410 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulances; Counties I'm in STRONG OPPOSITION of HB1410, which transfers the regulation of ambulance services from DOH to the counties and allocates a portion of the transient accommodations tax to the counties for ambulance regulation and operation. Mahalo for allowing this testimony which is in OPPOSITION.
Councilmember Robert Carroll

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Council Chair
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Vice-Chair
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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Sandy K. Baz

COUNTY COUNCIL
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 1, 2017

TO: Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
Committee on Health

Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Crivello", is written over the printed name of the sender.

DATE: Thursday, February 2, 2017

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO HB 1410 RELATING TO HEALTH**

I **oppose HB 1410** for the reasons cited in testimony submitted by the Maui County Council Chair, and urge you to oppose this measure.

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 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: HB1410 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division supports the intent of HB1410 and suggests amendments.

We appreciate the intent of transferring the regulation of the ambulance service from the State Department of Health (DOH) to the counties, but we recommend increasing the TAT to accommodate the rise in cost of providing emergency services. We cannot support the decrease in the TAT every year.

We cannot afford to have a portion of Honolulu's share of the TAT to specifically cover ambulance service costs, as well as support reducing the counties' share of the TAT to \$93,000,000 for FY2018 and beyond. This will result in a decrease in our ability to maintain emergency medical services while the population of Oahu requires more and more services. 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 sufficient funds to buy ambulances or equipment.

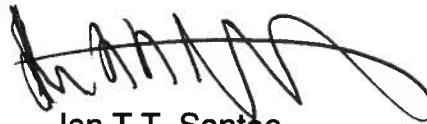
This bill also increases the responsibilities of the counties but does not increase the funding. We are being expected to not only provide all the services we currently do, but also take on DOH's responsibilities with respect to the regulation of the ambulance service. This provision requires each county to expand services. Accordingly, each county needs more funding.

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

This measure requires each county to assume the duty to regulate ambulance service on January 1, 2018, which gives the counties less than one year to make appropriate adjustments. If enacted, the implementation of this measure will need to be deferred for at least one to two years. We request that you please amend this measure to allow the counties to have sufficient time to adjust to regulate and provide ambulance services and provide a corresponding increase to the TAT to enable the counties to fund the additional required responsibilities.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, are in support of the intent of HB1410, but recommend amendments to HB1410.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian T.T. Santee', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ian T.T. Santee
Acting Director



February 2, 2017

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

Re: HB 1410: Relating to EMS

My name is Speedy Bailey and I am the Regional Director for American Medical Response (AMR) in Hawaii. I am not in support of HB 1410.

The State of Hawaii Emergency Medical Services system provides comprehensive 911 response from Hilo to Hanalei, serving residents and visitors with access to high quality pre-hospital emergency care. In 1978, the legislature found that the establishment of a state comprehensive system was necessary to protect and preserve the health of the State. A system was designed to reduce medical emergency deaths, injuries, and permanent long term disability through the implementation of a fully integrated, cohesive network of components.

The State system shall provide for administration of: personnel, personnel training, communications, emergency transportation, facilities, coordination with emergency medical and critical care services, coordination and use of public safety agencies, promotion of consumer participation, mandatory standard medical record keeping, consumer information and education, independent review and evaluation, disaster linkage, mutual aid agreements, and other components as necessary.

Emergency Medical Services are delivered through contracts with the Hawaii County Fire Department, American Medical Response on Maui & Kauai and the City and County of Honolulu EMS in each of Hawaii's four major counties respectively. EMS training for EMTs, Paramedics and First Responders is provided through Kapi'olani Community College's Department of Emergency Medical Services. KCC is accredited has been nationally recognized for excellence in its 25+ year tenure.

The State's share of 911 ambulance services, 50 ambulances, 2 helicopters and training statewide is approximately \$75 million with almost \$39 million returned from billing to the State's General fund in FY 2016.

This Statewide Comprehensive System is stable and has provided access in Hawaii to high quality care for 39 years. HB 1410 threatens to disrupt the standardization and continuity of care delivered statewide, its administrative and fiscal efficiencies and collaborative and integrated stakeholder efforts within Hawaii's healthcare system. I respectfully urge your denial of

HB1410.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:04 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tiffanys98@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1410 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM

HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

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

Comments: I am in opposition to HB 1410. As an EMS worker and a 26 year license and practicing Paramedic I feel this bill in not in the best interest of the public or the pre-hospital needs for emergency care. The one thing I feel is the most important aspect of any profession is experience and the only way that can be achieved is with time and in this case, call volume. As county Fire agencies are very proficient in fire safety and prevention, the Department achieved this with time and experience. There is no way to rush this process. Look at it this way, if you needed open heart surgery one of the questions that should be asked is how long have you been in practice and how many of these procedures have you done? Or building a house you want an experienced licensed contractor. This is how I feel a bout my career as a veteran Paramedic Currently on Kauai the county I work in, the Fire department co-responds and I can tell you both agencies are good at their roles that we provide to the public. Please do not pass this bill as I strongly feel the public will be the ones who suffer. Thank you fo your time and please consider my testimony.

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kobayashi2 - Jessi

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1410 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Byron Vance	Kauai Paramedics Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

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February 1, 2017

LATE

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

Re: HB1410: Relating to EMS

My name is Curt Morimoto and I am the Operations Manager for American Medical Response (AMR) for Maui County. I have been in EMS since first becoming an EMT in 1976 and the manager for AMR since 1994.

The State Department of Health (SDOH) has historically provided the comprehensive 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) efficiently and effectively. SDOH has coordinated all of the necessary components so that the SAME EMS standard of care is provided to residents and visitors statewide. This includes a statewide Medical communications system, patient electronic charting system as well as training oversight via Kapiolani Community College for EMT & Paramedic initial training to include continuing education courses necessary for personnel recertification. Their involvement is paramount to the success of the EMS program in saving lives statewide. The SDOH also regulates and coordinates all EMS contracts statewide so that equipment, supplies & personnel are consistent. The care provided by a Paramedic crew on the island of Kauai is the same as EMS care provided on the Big Island. This didn't happen overnight!!

It is unrealistic to believe that individual counties can assume this same consistent oversight with sufficient funds in order to meet the current level of standards developed over many years. It would take county administration officials many years to get where the state is currently with regulating and coordinating EMS. Any step backwards in caring for the sick and injured in the state is unacceptable.

For these reasons I urge you to please DENY HB1410. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curt Morimoto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LATE

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: kpahawaii@gmail.com
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HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

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

Comments: This bill does not have my support. Mike Foster, MICT 00142

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HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Byron Vance	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Vance	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: cilahm@aol.com
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Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:01:57 AM

HB1410

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candace Lahm	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I have worked as an EMT-Paramedic in Maui County for 34 years and I believe that handing the EMS systems over to the Counties would be devastating to the systems we have worked so hard with the SDOH to make as good as they are now. Changing over to the County will cause a progressive decline in care over the years to come and in our business could cost lives. PLEASE do not support HB #1410. Thank you for your time. Candace L. Lahm, EMTP 392

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1410 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yuki Lei Sugimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HB1410

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Servito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: barbdaumiller@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1410 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM*
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:05:04 AM

HB1410

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

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

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

Comments:

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