



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

Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1676 H.D. 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 16, 2018 4:00pm

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of H.B. 1676 H.D. 1, and defer to the Governor's
2 Supplemental Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities. H.B. 1676 H.D. 1 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal
4 year 2018 - 2019 be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the DOH
5 for the purchase of an ambulance vehicle and the operational costs for one ambulance
6 unit. Operational costs include equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified
7 emergency medical services personnel. This ambulance unit is to be a twenty-four-hour, seven-
8 days-a-week service for the county of Kauai.

9 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
10 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding county of Kauai. This measure
11 seeks to augment Kauai County emergency medical services system for the residents and visitors
12 of the county. DOH contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide 24/7 911
13 ambulance services for Kauai County. AMR operates five ground ambulances in Kauai county.
14 According to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population grew 4.9% from
15 67,090 to 70,447. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Kauai County since 1992.
16 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch meets regularly with all of
17 Hawaii's emergency service providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system
18 challenges. This EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance
19 resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the
20 growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions,

1 the group identified Kauai County, Hawaii County, and City and County of Honolulu as the
2 areas of highest need.

3 This finding was confirmed by examining Kauai County ambulance response time data from the
4 DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response times for Hanalei
5 and the surrounding area located in Kauai County is 20 minutes or less. In 2016, Kauai County
6 response times in Hanalei and environs exceeded the 20 minute threshold 34% of the time.
7 Adding an additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to Kauai County would improve
8 response times.

9 The State's investment in 911 ambulance services statewide in contracts with the counties for
10 EMS services totals approximately \$75 million with almost \$42 million from billing being
11 returned to the State's General fund in FY 2017. Should the Legislature wish to increase the
12 Kauai County EMS resources, the requisite funds needed are estimated to be \$1.5 million per
13 year.

14 Given the increasing demand for emergency medical services statewide, the DOH respectfully
15 recommends consideration of the need for resources for additional ambulance units for all three
16 counties.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 14, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 16, 2018
4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1676, HD1, Relating to Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2018 Kaua'i County Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council and Chair of its Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health 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. Emergency medical services are crucial to the survival rate for persons involved in emergency situations, and residents and visitors would greatly benefit from an additional fully-equipped, state-certified ambulance unit and the increased efficiency when responding to emergencies.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

VCOUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
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February 15, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR BRUN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 16, 2018

4:00 p.m.

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For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR BRUN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct

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February 15, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR BRUN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Finance

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For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR BRUN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct

VCOUNTY COUNCIL

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February 15, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 16, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1676, HD1, Relating to Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2018 Kaua'i County Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health 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. Emergency medical services are crucial to the survival rate for persons involved in emergency situations, and residents and visitors would greatly benefit from an additional fully-equipped, state-certified ambulance unit and the increased efficiency when responding to emergencies.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MASON K. CHOCK
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct

VCOUNTY COUNCIL

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February 15, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 16, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1676, HD1, Relating to Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2018 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 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. Emergency medical services are crucial to the survival rate for persons involved in emergency situations, and residents and visitors would greatly benefit from an additional fully-equipped, state-certified ambulance unit and the increased efficiency when responding to emergencies.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance 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:ct

COUNTY COUNCIL

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February 15, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ROSS KAGAWA
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 16, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1676, HD1, Relating to Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2018 Kaua'i County Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health 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. Emergency medical services are crucial to the survival rate for persons involved in emergency situations, and residents and visitors would greatly benefit from an additional fully-equipped, state-certified ambulance unit and the increased efficiency when responding to emergencies.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ROSS KAGAWA
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

COUNTY COUNCIL

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February 15, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ARRYL KANESHIRO
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 16, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1676, HD1, Relating to Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2018 Kaua'i County Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health 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. Emergency medical services are crucial to the survival rate for persons involved in emergency situations, and residents and visitors would greatly benefit from an additional fully-equipped, state-certified ambulance unit and the increased efficiency when responding to emergencies.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ARRYL KANESHIRO
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.
Managing Director

Kilipaki K. F. Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

February 14, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno
House District 28
Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 439
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno:

Subject: House Bill 1676 HD1 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

I am Robert Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD supports HB 1676, Making an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services which proposes to appropriate money to the Department of Health to purchase an ambulance vehicle and fund the costs associated with operating the ambulance on a basis of 24-hours a day, 7-days-a-week for Kaua'i and Hawai'i Counties. Emergency medical services are crucial to the survival rate for persons involved in emergency situations, and our residents and visitors would greatly benefit from an additional fully-equipped, state-certified ambulance unit and the increased efficiency when responding to emergencies.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Health and Human Services to support this measure.

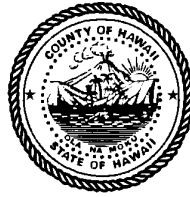
Please contact me at (808) 241-4975 or rwesterman@kauai.gov should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/dag

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 15, 2018

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

SUBJECT: HB 1676 HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Hearing Date: Friday, February 16, 2018
Time/Place of Hearing: 4:00 pm, Conference Room 308

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HCFD). The HCFD supports HB 1676, HD1 Relating to Emergency Medical Services.

The Hawai'i Fire Department supports HB 1676, HD1 requesting funding for an additional twenty-four hour ambulance unit for the County of Kauai. The Hawai'i Fire Department EMS Bureau regularly meets with the State DOH EMSIPB and 911 EMS Providers from each jurisdiction to affectively determine the EMS needs of the State of Hawai'i. The last time Kauai County was afforded an expansion to its ambulance services was in 1992.

The HCFD urge your committees' support on the passage of HB 1676, HD1.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 932-2901 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren".

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief





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

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2018**

February 16, 2018

Committee on Finance

Testimony by

Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, ALF-CIO

H.B. No. 1676 HD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State of Hawaii, with 142 HFFA members serving in the County of Kauai Fire Department.

HFFA supports H.B. No. 1676 HD1 as the island of Kaua'i has experienced a number of factors that justifiably warrants the need for the additional EMS units, including the increase in EMS call volume and population growth.

The volume of EMS calls have slowly increased each year without a correlated increase in EMS services to the areas and with the projected population growth, this will no doubt continue to impact the ability to deliver high quality EMS services to Kaua'i residents.

The request presented in H.B. No. 1676 HD1 would aid not only our first responders in meeting the ever-increasing demands and needs for emergency medical services on Kaua'i, but it would also better serve our communities as an additional ambulance unit would improve the response times.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and HFFA respectfully requests favorable consideration of this measure.

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 4:07:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i.	Support	No

Comments:

February 15, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee members

FROM: Tito Villanueva
Kauai EMS Chief
Operations Manager, American Medical Response—Kauai County

RE: SUPPORT TESTIMONY HB, HD1 1676

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 unit for Kauai 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 HB1676, HD1 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for Kauai County.

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 1:59:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 3:13:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Yasay	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Andrew Yasay an EMT of American Medical Response for the county of Kauai. I am expressing my support of bill HB1676, HD1 for the reason of better serving our families/community with emergency medical services. There is a great need for an additional ambulance unit on Kauai due to the fact that our north and west ambulances have such a longer respond/turn-around time because of the location of their station/district distance to Wilcox Hospital(primary hospital) is at least 25+ miles away. An additional unit on Kauai will greatly relieve this problem. Thank you for your time!

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 3:32:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of HB 1676

Making an appropriation for Emergency Medical Services

Appropriate funds for the county of Kauai and the county of Hawaii, for one ambulance for each county, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including equipment, supplies, and personnel cost.

The county of Kauai has a growing resident population of 72,000.

Kauai is a world class tourist destination with approximately 2 million tourist visiting Kauai last year.

Kauai's EMS system does its best to respond to and deliver prehospital advanced life support care.

There are recurring situations on Kauai when the timely delivery of prehospital advanced life support care can be a challenge

The majority of Kauai County is designated as rural by the HI DOH EMS Department and response times within 20 minutes are acceptable according to current HI EMS guidelines.

We currently have 5 advanced life support ambulances serving Kauai.

Medic 20 Waimea, Medic 24 Koloa, Medic 21 Lihue, Medic M23 Kapaa and Medic 22 Kilauea

There are two hospitals on Kauai Wilcox Hospital in Lihue and Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital in Waimea.

There has been an increase in the number of times when an advanced life support ambulance has had to cover another district due to no ambulance coverage. This causes an increase in response time and a delay in the timely delivery of prehospital advanced life support care.

For example, when the Medic 22 ambulance unit which covers (Moloa'a, Kilauea, Hanalei, Wainiha and Haena district) is out on a call or transporting a patient to Wilcox Hospital, and there is a call in their area, It will take an ambulance from another district 30 to 45 minutes to get to the scene depending on the location of call.

On the other side of Kauai, the Waimea Medic 20 unit or the Koloa Medic 24 unit may be out on a call or transporting a patient to Wilcox Hospital and there is a call to Koloa or Kekaha, the Lihue Medic 21 unit must respond. Response time and timely delivery of advanced life support care is well over 20 minutes.

We are fortunate here on Kauai to have a co response EMS system with the Kauai Fire Department and Ocean Safety Bureau. As first responders they deliver effective basic life support care. We work together effectively as a team with everyone understanding their roles to deliver and provide the best care we can for our community. When part of the team is not at the scene due to a delay because the ambulance is coming from another district, the patient and the community suffers.

Imagine a family member, friend or visitor suffering from a stroke, heart attack or drowning in Haena or Hanalei. Or a similar scenario occurring in Waimea or Kekaha and having to wait 45 minutes for an advanced life support ambulance/unit to arrive. Is a thirty or forty five minutes response time acceptable? I don't think so.

The people of Kauai, from Kekaha to Haena and everywhere in between deserve better delivery of prehospital advanced life support ambulance service. A reasonable effort to improve upon our existing EMS system needs to be made.

Kauai needs an additional 24 hours advanced life support ambulance unit. This ambulance unit will augment the current system in place and will help reduce response times and delays in the delivery of prehospital advanced life support care.

Aloha

Michael Taboniar Paramedic

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 10:28:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Mizuno and members of the committee:

Aloha and Thank you for your support of HB1676

As a resident of Kauai since 1989 I have seen the increase of population growth as well as the significant increase of tourism.

A problem facing EMS response units is the need to provide coverage to adjoining service areas. This happens when these areas are vacated by their respective units when they are out on a 911 call. If our northern most unit (Kilauea) is out on a call, the next available unit must respond from the east side (Kapaa). Travel times to the north-west areas of our island can be in excess of 35 minutes. Then there is the additional 45 minute travel time to our primary hospital (Wilcox, in Lihue). That is simply too much time for an ALS (advanced life support) case.

Adding an additional station would greatly ease coverage concerns for the other 5 stations. Our last station was added in 1992. At that time our population was approximately 52,000 residents plus tourists. Currently our population is up to 67,000, not including ever increasing tourism, which also make up a large portion of our overall call volume.

Mahalo for your consideration of HB 1676 and also for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Eisenbach AEMT

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 6:57:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jillian wenderlich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an AMR employee, I have seen many times when all units have been responding leaving their areas "wide open" for any sort of emergency. Imagine that you or your loved ones call 922 and it takes a half hour for an ambulance to come because they are either coming from the other side of the island or dropping off a patient at the hospital first. With our increasing population and sky rocketing tourist population, it's imperative that we keep up with our emergency services. Thank you for your time.

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 9:43:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Mike Foster, I am in favor of HB 1676. I have worked as a Paramedic on Kauai for over 38 years . The population of Kauai continues to grow, as well as visitor arrivals are increasing. The ability for the 5 ambulances to cover the whole island has become a challenge. North shore, Medic 22 has long transport times being the farthest out, The west side ambulance, Medic 20 due to new protocols, is mandated to bypass Kauai Vetrans Memorial Hospital, and run patients to Wilcox hospital for people who call 911 for strokes, trauma, and orthopedic emergencies. This takes M 20 out of their service area for 2 hours per call. All rigs also have to respond to other service areas if the primary rig is on another call. It is becoming more common to have 5 rigs running calls, and there is no back up available, the next available unit will respond. It is my understanding that the State guideline for response time was changed from 17 minutes to 20 to possibly make the numbers look better? The people of Kauai would benifit if this measure is passed, it is very important for a families loved one to get to the hospital to preserve quality of life. Minuets count when the heart, and brain are starving for oxygen, trauma patients need to get to surgical intervention also. Thank you for your help

Respectfully,

Mike Foster MICT 000142

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 9:52:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I whole heartedly support HB1676.

As an EMT since 1993, and stationed at Medic 22, North Shore and the most distant from Wilcox ER, I have noticed a steady and surprising increase in our resident count and tourist count. New subdivisions are already being built and many more are awaiting approval with no end in sight.

We desperately need another ambulance station on Kauai to effectively serve our community and visitors.

It's been far too long and I hope and pray that this bill will pass.

I have been and I am a resident of Kilauea since 1979. And I am a Voter.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara Daumiller EMT1026

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 10:30:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Bonilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Support HB1676. Definetely a #1 need for Kauai. Last Ambulance funded was in 1992. Population and growth have exceeded the need for another 24/7 ALS ambulance. Please prove to the Kauai people that their lives matter and not let this slip away for the third year in a row.

Mahalo for your support!

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 11:54:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kenneth faria	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

The bill should include the island of Oahu as well, 20 ambulances during the day and 18 at night is not enough to provide care for the people and it's visitors. The population is growing and there is no denying that the call volume has grown and will continue to do so. It is imperative that we provide additional ambulance units

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 12:25:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kea Smith	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleading with you that you please amend HB1676 and HB1616 to include appropriation monies to DOH for AT LEAST one, preferably three to five additional ambulance for Honolulu County. I am currently a paramedic employed with Honolulu EMS and have been working in EMS for the past 9 years. In my tenure we've only been granted one additional ambulance (Ewa Beach) during this time and that was due to the closing of Hawaii Medical Center - West. EMS transports in 2012 were approx. fifty thousand. In 2017 transports increased to approx. fifty-six thousand. Thats a roughly 12.82% increase in hospital transports by Honolulu EMS just over a five year period. Please be reminded too that those numbers are just transports, EMS responds to thousands of more calls that in the end are not transported to hospitals but do receive emergency care on scene. In 2017 we responded to over 100,000 911 calls for emergency assistance. Doing this strains our (18) 24 hour and (2) 12 hour ambulance crews. The paramedics and emergency medical technicians that staff these ambulances and the tax paying public are paying the ultimate sacrifice due to the lack of EMS resources provided to them in Honolulu County. EMS crews are being burnt out and fatigue sets in. The high turnover rate continues and we often find ourselves short staffed as employees move to other departments (HFD/HPD/AMR) or change to other less demanding healthcare fields (nursing). The tax paying public and our visitors find themselves having to wait longer for EMS and response times increase due to the massive inundation of 911 calls for emergency services that continue to increase year after year. Again I'm sure Hawaii and Kauai county are too in need of additional EMS resources but PLEASE don't forget about Honolulu and our increasing population and increasing call volume to 911 for emergency services.

Sincerely,

Kea Smith

Paramedic

City and County of Honolulu

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 1:13:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George C Romley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear counsel,

My name is George Romley, I am 30 years old, born and raised in Waianae. I petition you not only as a private citizen but as well as a former EMT for the City and County of Honolulu. I am writing to you to today with a voice that asks for discernment and amendment to the bill **HB1676 HD1**. I am currently attending medical school out of state and thus am unable to attend in person.

There has been an increase in demand for available units to service the county of Honolulu. I am requesting to amend HB1676 to also include a unit for the county of Honolulu. Additional units will immensely improve response times and outcomes of both the rural and urban districts on Oahu. As a specific example, please consider for a moment a 911 response to the Leeward side of Oahu. The problem is though Waianae, Nanakuli and Makakilo service that area, many times more than none, Waipahu or Waipio, is the closest available unit to respond to a call in Makaha. Because with the increased demand for EMS services, Waianae, Nanakuli and Makakilo are usually simultaneously either out on calls or busy transferring care.

The human brain can survive for only six minutes without oxygen before permanent damage sets in. A predominant thought that was on my mind one day when I heard dispatch page over the radio requesting a response for the next available unit to attend to a cardiac arrest. My unit was literally two blocks away, but a minute too late to respond, for we just established patient contact with a different patient on a different call -his ailment was a broken toe. Though I gratefully honored my duty to attend to someone in need I could not help but deal with the frustration that the next available unit to the cardiac arrest call was more than 12 minutes away. I later found out from hospital staff, that the patient did not survive.

The statistics that City and County of Honolulu units alone in 2017, had 18, 24- hour units, 2, 12- hour units and assisted in 56 thousand hospitals transport –a 12% increase since 2012 in the county of Honolulu, alone. I urge the house to push forward with HB1676, to not only assist with much needed resources on Kauai but as well as to amend the bill to include Oahu.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully George Romley

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 2:25:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

It has come to my attention as an EMT that there is legislation being pushed to add budgets for additional units to Kauai and Big Island. This is great as EMS coverage is generally sparse compared to our fellow Fire fighter units that are located well throughout the islands for quick/timely responses to the areas that they are stationed. They probably need these additional resources and I hope they get the funding to help provide more units to the ever increasing 911 calls they get so that they can give adequate pt care and reduce response times to their island's communities.

However I would like to bring attention to Oahu. As I mentioned I am an EMT and I work for the City and County of Honolulu EMS system and since I started 7 years ago, I believe we've added two leeward units since that time. They have helped in taking care of the communities in which they are stationed.

Another thing I have noticed since the time I have started, it was a rare case for windward units or surrounding town units to be pulled into town to respond to 911 calls for help during an 8 hour shift period. Currently as I work a 12 hour shift, I hear multiple units (Kaneohe, Kailua, Wailupe, Hawaii Kai, Aiea, and sometimes more) being sent into the central Honolulu area to cover the increasing 911 calls.

While it is welcome to have the back up response from outlying areas, it becomes an increasingly difficult problem to have proper coverage (ie: how long it takes for a 911 call to be placed for a unit to arrive at scene). This is because pulling one unit out of a units stationed area to cover for anothers leaves that area wide open and more often then not, the outlying areas are larger and take longer to respond to when a 911 call comes in. Additional units can be shifted from outlying areas, but then those units communities are put at risk due to there not being proper coverage. At some point there will be incidences that a unit has to respond to a critical call and no units are available to respond due to the scarcity of resources.

It is vital to have more units to spread the burden of the increasing call volume on the Honolulu 911 response systems. Currently in a 12 hour period, some units push 12+ calls in a shift, which is more than one call an hour. That volume is manageable, but this is basically pushing our system to the limit. We are all well trained and will give the best patient care possible, but at some point the overwhelming call volume will catch up to us and critical patient care may be too far away to respond or too busy to get to the

patient's side in a timely fashion. In a 911 response system minutes and sometimes seconds matter to give life saving patient care.

I understand budgets are tight, but having an extra unit or two, especially in the town area will allow us the manpower and coverage to properly give critical pre-hospital patient care. Having more units will decrease the need for outside units to cover another units and their areas. This also insures that those outlying districts will have units available to respond to 911 calls in their area instead of having to cover another units area.

The increased population growth of Oahu is outpacing the growth of the 911 response system and we direly need funding for additional units to provide timely pre-hospital patient care that we as first responder want to give. I do not have the numbers, but our administration has been keeping track of our increased call volume and I believe there is data to back up my testimony. So please take the time to look into the Honolulu C&C EMS response situation and consider finding additional funding to provide additional needed units to our 911 response system on Oahu.

Thank you for your time,

Jansen Fukuda
EMT for C&C Honolulu EMS

TL:DR: C&C Honolulu EMS needs additional funding to make up for the ever increasing 911 call volume so that proper and timely patient care can be given.

Friday, February 16, 2018; 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: HB 1676, HD1 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I am writing in support of HB 1676, HD1 which appropriates funds for a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week ambulance unit for the County of Kaua'i, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs. Timely access to life-saving health care is essential for our community. The availability of ambulances and emergency medical personnel are critical components in 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 this opportunity to testify.

February 14, 2018

LATE

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Joanne Kealoha – jkealoha@ilwulocal142.org – (808) 864-1310

RE: **H.B. 1676, HD1 – Relating to Emergency Medical Services**
H.B. 1616, HD1 – Relating to Health

Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to you as a private citizen and the wife of someone who suffered a cardiac arrest last year. Fortunately, my husband Peter received excellent services from paramedics and firefighters who responded swiftly and efficiently to his medical emergency—and helped to save his life.

On April 22, 2017, our whole family was dining at a restaurant in Honolulu when my husband collapsed. His heart literally stopped. I don't know how long he was without a pulse or oxygen to his brain, but those were several scary minutes as I waited for emergency personnel to arrive and watched them work to revive him. They rushed him to Queen's Medical Center where he received excellent care to protect his brain while in an induced coma for almost a week. Physical, speech, and occupational therapy at Rehab Hospital allowed him to return home and go back to work by August.

But it all started with the first responders. Because they were able to respond so quickly, my husband was saved. The first six minutes without oxygen to the brain can mean irreversible brain damage. Even if he survived, he would not be the same person. He was lucky, and we are grateful.

I later learned that Oahu has only 20 ambulance units for the whole island. If the unit closest to us was tied up with another emergency—or worse yet, a non-emergency to which it was obligated to respond—my husband very likely would not be with us today.

H.B. 1676, HD1 and H.B. 1616, HD1 request funding for ambulance units respectively for Kauai and Puna on Hawaii island. Available ambulance units are vital to survival rates in the type of cardiac emergency my husband experienced. We strongly support funding for ambulance units for Kauai and Puna, but we respectfully request that you consider funding for additional units on Oahu as well.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony on this matter.



**February 16, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308**

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich
CEO, Wilcox Medical Center

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 1676, HD 1

My name is Jen Chahanovich and I am the chief executive officer of Wilcox Medical Center. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Medical Center 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 Medical Center 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 1676, HD1 which appropriates funds for a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week ambulance unit for the County of Kaua'i, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs. Timely access to life-saving health care is essential for our community. The availability of ambulances and emergency medical personnel are critical components in 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

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 6:45:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tony frascarelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

No additional comments.

LATE

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 7:31:01 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred Lardizabal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 16, 2018

Chair Sylvia Luke

Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen

Members of the Finance Committee

I have a family and home in Wailua Homesteads on Kauai located in the back of the Sleeping Giant mountain. Like most rural communities, emergency medical services are limited because of distance and the lack of 24-hour equipment and emergency medical personnel. On behalf of the community, please consider approving HB1676 HD1 for funding, equipmnt, and EMS personnel

Thank you very much

Al Lardizabal

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 12:47:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan McKnight	AMR	Support	No

Comments:

We have not had an additional EMS unit added since 1992. Also we have on average as much visitors as we have residents making our population and call volume increasingly larger. The current 5 stations are struggling to cover their own areas due to multiple calls coming into dispatch at any given time.

Thank you- Ryan McKnight MICT at Medic 22 (North Shore, Kauai)

LATE

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 1:56:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Poulos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representatives;

I support HB1616 HD1 and HB1676 HD1 which appropriates funds for a 24/7 ambulance for Kauai and for another ambulance based in Puna.

I would also like to request that monies be appropriated for more ambulance units on Oahu. Although there is bill SB2374 which provides a Community Paramedic Services Pilot Program; Establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year community paramedic services pilot program which I hope will be part of the solution, this does not help the immediate issue of our Oahu EMS services being over being stretched to and beyond its limits. Below is the news story from just last night on Hawaii News Now

Thursday, February 15th 2018, 6:02 pm HST HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) -

Honolulu's plea for a new Emergency Medical Services station is on life support at the state Legislature. Given present resources, managers of Oahu's paramedics and emergency medical technicians say they're already stretched to the limit – and they desperately need help in order to continue saving people's lives.

"We really need help. We are in a critical stage where one of these days, we're not going to be able to respond to all the calls that we get in a timely manner," said Honolulu EMS Chief Dean Nakano. "I hate to say it, but one of these days, somebody is going to have to wait for an ambulance and the outcome is not going to be good. Nakano says there are only 20 ambulances on Oahu to serve nearly one million residents, plus around 10 million visitors annually. He says they simply can't keep up with the amount of calls. Our call volumes been going up steadily, at a average of 10,000 more calls each year, and we still have the same amount of ambulances," Nakano said.

EMS officials say the last new ambulance they received was in 2012. Sometimes, Nakano says, they are stretched so thin that an ambulance from Hawaii Kai will get called out to Nanakuli. "At this point, we're not meeting our required response times, because like I said, we're stretched to the limit," he said.

From personal experience I know how overworked our EMTs and medics are. My daughter is a medic with the City and County. She regularly works past her shift filling out paper work that she was not able to complete during her working hours because of the amount of calls they received. Often in a 12 hour shift they have 14 or more calls. She is often physically and emotionally drained by just the sheer number of calls they need to respond to; they have very little recovery time, if any before the next call comes in.

I know there are many needs and we have a limited supply of funds, but we need to make sure our residents have the safety services they need and take care of our emergency medical providers so that we give the best care to all.

Mahalo, Lisa Poulos