

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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1790
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: January 25, 2018 9:00AM

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB 1790, and defer to the Governor's
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. HB 1790 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2018 - 2019
4 be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the DOH for the purchase
5 of an ambulance vehicle and the operational costs for one ambulance unit. Operational costs
6 include equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services
7 personnel. These ambulance units are to be a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week service for
8 the counties of Kauai and Hawaii.

9 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
10 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding counties of Kauai and
11 Hawaii. This measure seeks to augment Kauai and Hawaii County's emergency medical
12 services system for the residents and visitors of both counties.

13 DOH contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide 24/7, 911 ambulance
14 services for Kauai County. AMR operates five ground ambulances in Kauai county. According
15 to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population grew 4.9% from 67,090 to
16 70,447. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Kauai County since 1992.

17 Similarly, DOH contracts with the Hawaii County Fire Department to operate 15 ground
18 ambulances and one medical helicopter on the island of Hawaii. According to the United States
19 Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population of Hawaii County increased 4.5%

1 from 185,079 to 193,680. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Hawaii County
2 since 2005.

3 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch meets regularly with all of
4 Hawaii's emergency service providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system
5 challenges. This 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 identified Kauai and Hawaii County as the areas of high need.

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

15 The mandated DOH contracted response times for the Puna surrounding areas located in Hawaii
16 County is 20 minutes or less. A review of EMS data over a 7-year period (2010 – 2016)
17 demonstrated that Puna area response times exceeded the mandated 20 minute threshold between
18 16% - 39% of the time. Adding an additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to this
19 district would improve Hawaii County response times.

20 The State's investment in 911 ambulance services statewide in contracts for EMS services totals
21 approximately \$75 million with almost \$42 million from billing being returned to the State's
22 General fund in FY 2017. Should the Legislature wish to increase the Kauai and Hawaii County
23 EMS resources, the requisite funds needed are estimated to be \$1.5 million per year for each
24 county.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

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

January 23, 2018

TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1790, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Thursday, January 25, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1790, Making an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services, which is included in the 2018 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted as Vice President of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, and in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council and Chair of the Council's 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 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 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 Health & Human Services 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:mn

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



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

January 24, 2018

TO: Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Stacy Crivello, Secretary
Hawaii State Association of Counties

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

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 25, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1790, RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

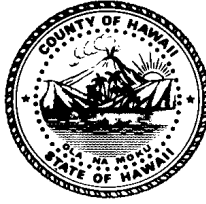
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funding to the Department of Health to purchase an ambulance vehicle and fund the expenses associated with operation of the ambulance on a 24-hour a day, 7-days-a-week basis for Hawai'i and Kauai Counties.

This measure is part of the Hawaii State Association of Counties' ("HSAC") Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony as HSAC's Secretary.

I am aware that the President of HSAC has submitted testimony, on behalf of HSAC, in support of this measure. As the Secretary of HSAC, I concur with the testimony submitted by the President, and urge you to support this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:18legis:18testimony:hb1790_paf18-010_mcc

*From the office of -
Council Member
District 3*



Office: (808) 961-8396
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov

SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

January 23, 2018

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 1790, to fund ambulance vehicles and operational costs in the counties of Kauai and Hawai'i. As with all bills submitted as a part of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties' legislative package, HB 1790 has been recommended for approval by all four county councils. I appreciate any assistance the Legislature can provide the Department of Health to improve public safety throughout the State of Hawai'i.

Per the U.S. Census Bureau, the population in Hawai'i County has risen to 198,449 as of 2016, for an average increase of 835 people per year since 2010. Continued increases in population along with record-breaking numbers of tourism arrivals to Hawai'i Island will strain our county's ability to provide adequate public safety for our residents and visitors, absent increased investment in emergency medical services by the State. Although I cannot speak with certainty about the situation in Kaua'i County, I support their efforts as well.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1790, and I ask for your approval.

Aloha Piha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Lee Loy".

Sue Lee Loy
Council Member, District 3

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

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 23, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
House of Representatives
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

Re: HB1790 Making an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division, is in support of HB1790 with amendments.

The City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services Department is the contracted provider to the State of Hawaii Department of Health for Emergency Medical Services for the 992,605 residents and 5,461,880 (2016) visitors who live on and visit Oahu.

As one of the three contracted providers in the State we work cooperatively with the other providers to ensure the proper function and timely delivery of EMS services to all citizens and visitor in our State.

As a group we have determined that the current needs to ensure the timely and proper functioning of EMS services include new 24 hour ambulance units on Kauai, Hawaii, and Oahu. This determination of need is based primarily on the need to increase service to meet the increasing demands for service due to the following three populations:

- Continual annual increases in visitor arrivals and subsequent injuries sustained by this group while visiting our State requiring pre-hospital medical services (increased 10.45% since 2012 on Oahu),
- The annual increase in our senior population 65 years and older, our State policy of aging in place, and the significantly higher demand for pre-hospital emergency medical services as this population group ages (37.4% of total population on Oahu), and
- The high use demand placed on EMS services by our Homeless Population (4,940 on Oahu).

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
January 23, 2018
Page 2

The current level of EMS service on Oahu has absorbed this increase in demand over the past 6 years but is experiencing annual declines in response time capability. Response time is critically important in survival outcomes for many pre-hospital medical emergencies including cardiac arrest, stroke, and major trauma.

As such the Honolulu Emergency Services Department is in support of HB1790, however, we would request that the Bill be amended to include one EMS unit for the Island of Oahu to meet the pressing need for increased pre-hospital emergency medical services as identified above.

Sincerely,



James D. Howe, Jr.
Director



January 23, 2018

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Re: HB 1790: Relating to EMS

My name is Speedy Bailey and I am the Regional Director for American Medical Response (AMR) in Hawaii.

I am in strong support of HB 1790. AMR provides 911 services on Kauai and Maui County, serving residents and visitors with access to high quality pre-hospital emergency care through a contract with Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch (EMSIPSB).

Passage of HB 1790 would add significantly to the level of care to our visitors and residents as well as having faster response time during their emergency needs. The need for pre-hospital emergency medical response has been increasing and continues to increase due to Hawaii's population growth, aging demographic and an increase in the number of households and visitors.

According to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population of Kauai grew 6.9% from 67,090 to 71,735. The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. The population for Kauai at that time was ~ 50,000. There have been no additional rapid response or ambulance units since. It is anticipated that Kauai's population demographic will change and include an aging population over the next few years. This increase demand for services requires additional resources.

Similarly, according to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population of Hawaii County increased 6.1% from 185,079 to 196,428. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Hawaii County since 2005.

The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch (EMSIPSB) meet regularly with all of Hawaii's EMS providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system challenges. The EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions, the group identified Kauai and Hawaii County as the areas of highest need.

These priorities were confirmed by examining Hawaii and Kauai County ambulance response time data from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response times for Puna, Hawaii and Hanalei, Kauai respectively is 20 minutes or less. The data demonstrates that over the 7-year period (2010 - 2016) the Puna area response times exceeded the mandated 20 minute threshold between 16% - 39% of the time. Kauai County response times in Hanalei and environs exceeded the 20 minute threshold 34% of the time. Adding additional ambulance units and personnel resources to these districts will improve response times.

These ambulance units will add to the existing resources on Kauai and Hawaii Island and it will help reduce death and disability among residents.

I respectfully urge your committee's passage of HB 1790 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four -hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for Kauai and the County of Hawaii.

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu

74-5014 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Bldg. A, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



January 23, 2018

TESTIMONY OF DRU KANUHA
HSAC PRESIDENT

ON

HB 1790, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, January 25, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties in **support** of House Bill No. 1790, related to an appropriation for emergency medical services which is included in the 2018 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funding to the Department of Health to purchase an ambulance vehicle and fund the expenses associated with operation of the ambulance on a 24-hour a day, 7-days-a-week basis for Hawai'i and Kauai Counties. Emergency medical services are critical 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.

HSAC supports this measure for the reasons stated above. We urge the House Committee on Health and Human Services to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DRU KANUHA
HSAC PRESIDENT

January 23, 2018

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Lei R. Learmont
Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

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

RE: SUPPORT TESTIMONY HB 1790

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 units for Kauai County and the Puna district in Hawaii 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	51,177
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://dbedt.hawaii.gov/		

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 HB 1790 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for Kauai County and the Puna district in Hawaii County

HB-1790

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 5:55:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jillian Kelekoma	AMR Air Hawaii/EMS Coordinator Kauai County	Support	No

Comments:

Kauai has long been known as a County that has been able to make ends meet, and always provide EXCELLENCE in emergency medical care, regardless of the budget or resources available. We currently have (5) 24hr-7 day a week advanced life support ambulances for our County, and these units are tasked with covering the ENTIRE COUNTY. Mind you, the amount of resources we are able to coordinate and use does not fluctuate with the increase of visitors and residents to our island. But, we still provide an amazing service. HB1676 and HB1790 will appropriate funding, equipment, supplies, operational costs, and personnel costs for an additional advanced life support ambulance.

This impacts Kauai in many ways. First, we can keep our highly trained personnel that are born and raised on Kauai, here, in Kauai. Second, we WILL improve our response time to the County of Kauai with an advanced life support ambulance and providers. Lastly, and most importantly, it allows us to care for each other, our neighbors, our families, our visitors, in a way we have been longing to provide for many years. Kauai, her residents, and her visitors deserve that. I respectfully request for your support of HB1676 and HB1790.

Mahalo for you time,

Jillian Kelekoma

Thursday, January 25, 2018; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health & Human Services

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

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

Re: HB 1790 – 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 1790 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.

HB-1790

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 2:45:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Kauai has been growing, and visitor arrivals have increased, but we have not been able to expand EMS capability. I have personally been working on the ambulance here on Kauai for thirty eight, and a half years. Out of area coverage is very common now adding to response times. All ambulances on the road at the same time, with no back up is happening more often also. North shore has long transport times to Wilcox Hospital. Medic 20, the west side Ambulance must bypass Kauai Vetrans Memorial Hospital for cases that involve serious trauma, strokes, and also any serious orthopedic cases. Medic 20 can be out of area for up to 2 hours during such times. I strongly, and humbly ask for your support for passing this bill..

Thank you

Mike Foster MICT 00142

HB-1790

Submitted on: 1/22/2018 10:45:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Nothing could be more important than to have a 24-hour a day, 7 days a week ambulance unit for the counties of Kauai and Hawaii. We support this needed health & safety issue.

Scott Foster

Hawai'i Advocates For Consumer Rights

HB-1790

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 11:03:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Ancheta	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments: