



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on HB 603
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: January 31, 2017 830AM

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB 603, and defer to the Governor's Executive
2 Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. HB 603 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for an advanced life support
4 ambulance to be based in the Makalei area on the island of Hawaii and to be used during daily
5 peak hours from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including the acquisition of a vehicle and equipment,
6 and funding personnel costs for state certified emergency medical service personnel.

7 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing
8 health care and emergency medical services to the expanding community of Makalei. This
9 measure seeks to augment the Hawaii emergency medical services system for the residents and
10 visitors of the Island of Hawaii. DOH contracts and funds the Hawaii County Fire Department
11 to operate 15 ground ambulances and 1 medical helicopter on the Island of Hawaii. According to
12 US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2015, the population of Hawaii County increased
13 6.1% from 185,079 to 196,428. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Hawaii
14 County since 2005.

15 The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch meets regularly with all of
16 Hawaii's emergency service providers to review Hawaii's 911 response capabilities and system
17 challenges. This EMS Provider group discusses the current deployment of 911 ambulance
18 resources statewide and assesses the need for any additional ambulance units to meet the
19 growing health and safety needs of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Based on these discussions,
20 the group identified Puna and surrounding areas as Hawaii County's area of greatest need.

1 These priorities were confirmed by examining Hawaii County ambulance response time data
2 from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response time for
3 Makalei and surrounding areas is 15 minutes or less. A review of EMS data over a 7-year period
4 (2010 – 2016) demonstrated that this area is only over the mandated time 10% of the time.
5 Adding an additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to Makalei might improve Hawaii
6 County response times, but this is not the identified area of greatest need..

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TUESDAY, January 31, 2017, Conference Room 329, 8:30 a.m.
HB 603 RELATING TO COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports this measure. Community access to health care would be greatly improved by adding an ambulance, ambulance service and personnel to make the ambulance and advance life support services safer. Recent significant population growth in the Makalei area makes funding this measure urgent.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 5:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB603 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

Categories: Red Category

HB603

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

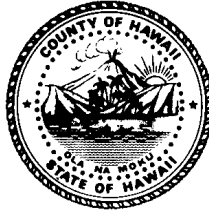
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: EMS resources are needed when life & death cases arise. Additional units will only assist with faster responses to those in need.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Karen Eoff
Council Vice Chair
Council District 8 - North Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 30, 2017

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Re: **Testimony Supporting HB603**; A BILL RELATING TO HEALTH
Hearing Date and Time: January 31, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

The Hawai'i County Council voted unanimously in favor of Resolution No. 48-17 to urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to appropriate funds for an advanced life support ambulance and equipment, and to employ State-certified emergency medical service personnel for the Makalei Fire Station and Daniel R. Sayre West Haaii Fire Training Center.

An advanced life support ambulance with personnel dispatched from Makalei will reduce the probability of death and disability, by increasing the timely response and ability to render effective aid to 911 calls, both of which are of paramount importance to successful outcomes from life-threatening incidents and sickness.

The general and aging population in the North Kona area has increased quickly and significantly creating a greater need for services, which is compounded by broad geographical transportation challenges as well as severe lack of emergency medical service resources.

I strongly recommend the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017
January 31, 2017

LATE

Committee on Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 603 Relating to Health
H.B. No. 837 Relating to Health

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, representing approximately 2,000 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State, strongly supports H.B. 603 and H.B. No. 837. More than 340 HFFA members serve the County of Hawaii and the Hawaii Fire Department is the only fire-based EMS service among the four County fire departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters.

HFFA strongly supports H.B. No. 603 and H.B. 837 as a number of factors that warrants the need for the additional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) unit. Factors including the increase in EMS call volume, population growth, and challenges with access to primary and acute care supports these requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and HFFA respectfully requests favorable consideration of these measures.