

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

Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2658, S.D. 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 15, 2018 10:00am

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of S.B. 2658, S.D. 1, and defer to the Governor's
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. S.B. 2658, S.D. 1, requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year
4 2018 - 2019 be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the DOH for
5 the purchase of an ambulance vehicle and the operational costs for two additional ambulance
6 units; one for the County of Kauai and one for the County of Hawaii. Operational costs include
7 equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services
8 personnel. The ambulance units will provide twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week service for
9 the counties of Kauai and Hawaii.

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

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

1 These findings were confirmed by examining Kauai and Hawaii County's ambulance response
2 time data from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response
3 times for Hanalei and the surrounding area located in Kauai County and for Puna and its
4 surrounding areas located in Hawaii County is 20 minutes or less. In 2016, Kauai County
5 response times in Hanalei and environs exceeded the 20 minute threshold 34% of the time and
6 between 16% - 39% of the time for Puna. Adding an additional ambulance unit and personnel
7 resources to both Kauai County and Hawaii County would improve response times.

8 DOH contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide 24/7, 911 ambulance
9 services for Kauai County. AMR operates five ground ambulances in Kauai county. According
10 to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population grew 4.9% from 67,090 to
11 70,447. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Kauai County since 1992.

12 Similarly, DOH contracts with the Hawaii County Fire Department to operate 15 ground
13 ambulances and one medical helicopter on the island of Hawaii. According to the United States
14 Census, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population of the County of Hawaii increased 4.5%
15 from 185,079 to 193,680. No additional ambulances have been authorized for the County of
16 Hawaii since 2005.

17 The State's investment in 911 ambulance service for the four counties totals approximately \$75
18 million with almost \$42 million from billing being returned to the State's General fund in FY
19 2017. Should the Legislature wish to increase the Kauai and Hawaii County EMS resources, the
20 requisite funds needed are estimated to be \$1.5 million per year for each county.

21 Given the increasing demand for emergency medical services statewide, the DOH respectfully
22 recommends consideration of the need for resources for additional ambulance units for the three
23 counties: Kauai, Hawaii, and City and County of Honolulu.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

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

74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Bldg A., Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



March 13, 2018

TESTIMONY OF DRU KANUHA
HSAC PRESIDENT
ON SB 2658 SD 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES.

Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:00 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 Senate Bill No. 2658 SD 1, 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 Committee on Health & Human Services to support his measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Kanuha" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DRU KANUHA
HSAC PRESIDENT

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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March 13, 2018

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2658, SD 1 Relating to Ambulances for Kauai and Hawai'i County
Hearing Date: 03-15-18 – 10:00 am; House Conference Room 329


Thank you for this opportunity to support funding for two new, much needed, ambulances, one each for Hawai'i and Kauai.

Although I recognize that these units are not inexpensive, the justification for additional funding is strong. For example:

1. The population of Hawai'i County has been rapidly increasing, but no additional ambulances have been authorized since 2005.
2. The DOH's EMS Provider group has identified Kauai and Hawai'i County as the areas of highest need.
3. The mandated DOH response time (20 minutes) for the District of Puna has been determined to be unmet between 16% - 39% of the time, and I understand that Kauai statistics are similar. Adding an additional ambulance unit and personnel resources for each County obviously would improve those response times.

Please help us provide these life-saving resources for our communities, by passing SB 2658, SD 1, with appropriate dollar amounts inserted.

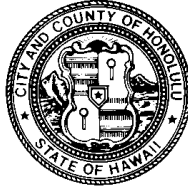
Respectfully submitted,


Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

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

March 13, 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: SB2658, SD1 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 SB2658, SD1 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:

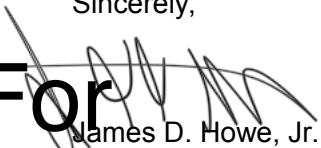
- Continual annual increases in visitor arrivals and subsequent injuries sustained by this group while visiting our State requiring pre-hospital medical services (increased 10.45% since 2012 on Oahu),
- The annual increase in our senior population 65 years and older, our State policy of aging in place, 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
March 13, 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 SB2658, SD1, 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,


For
James D. Howe, Jr.
Director

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

March 13, 2018

TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO
COUNCIL CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 2658, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Thursday, March 15, 2018
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2658, SD1, Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kauai 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 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. The appropriation provided in this measure will enhance the delivery of emergency medical services and remove some of the barriers to obtaining needed services.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Rapozo", written over a horizontal line.

MEL RAPOZO
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:dmc

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Arryl Kaneshiro
Derek S.K. Kawakami
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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March 13, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ROSS KAGAWA
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**SB 2658, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2658, SD1, Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services. 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 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. The appropriation provided in this measure will enhance the delivery of emergency medical services and remove some of the barriers to obtaining needed services.

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,

ROSS KAGAWA
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:aa

VCOUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Arryl Kaneshiro
Derek S.K. Kawakami
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 13, 2018

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

**SB 2658, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2658, SD1, Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services. 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 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 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,

ARRYL KANESHIRO
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
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Council Services Division
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March 13, 2018

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

**SB 2658, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2658, SD1, Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services. 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 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 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,

MASON K. CHOCK
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:mn

VCOUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Arryl Kaneshiro
Derek S.K. Kawakami
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 13, 2018

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

**SB 2658, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2658, SD1, Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services. 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 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.

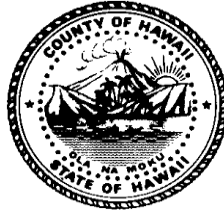
For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Health & Human Services to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR BRUN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Representative John M. Mizuno
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

March 13, 2018

Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2658, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by HHS on Thursday, 03-15-18 10:00AM in House conference room 329

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2658, which appropriates funds for an ambulance unit in the County of Hawai'i, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs. Puna has the longest wait time in the state with regard to servicing calls for emergency transport. As the County Council Representative for Lower Puna and a decades-long resident of the community, I can attest to the need for increased emergency medical services in the district.

Puna is the fastest growing district in the State, and currently has to rely on ambulances dispatched from Hilo to assist with the high volume of calls received daily. A new life support ambulance based in Puna will not only serve the district, but it will also mean less reliance on Hilo's limited resources. Furthermore, Puna is home to a large population of elderly and aging, a demographic that statistically relies more on emergency medical services. Residents and visitors alike will be served by the new ambulance and countless lives will undoubtedly be saved.

Please consider the life-saving impact this Bill will have on the people of Hawai'i, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen O'Hara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

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
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Council Services Division
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March 13, 2018

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

**SB 2658, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2658, SD1, Making an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services. 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 24-hour, 7-days-a-week basis for Kaua'i and Hawai'i counties. 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.

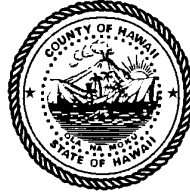
For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Health & Human Services to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

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

AMK:dmc

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

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Representative John J. Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Health & Human Services
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno:

**SUBJECT: SB 2658, SD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018

Time/Place of Hearing: 10:00 am, Conference Room 329

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HCFD). The HCFD supports SB 2658, SD1, Making an Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services.

The Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD) supports SB2658, SD1, requesting funding for an additional twenty-four hour ambulance units for the County of Kauai and County of Hawai'i.

HFD serves it's nearly 200,000 residents and 1.5 million visitors over a geographical area of 4,028 square miles. HFD's 15 advanced life support ambulances are positioned to best serve the needs of the island. The Puna district is centrally served by ambulances stationed out of the Kea'au (Medic 5) and Pahoa (Medic 10) Fire stations. These units are strategically positioned to serve the bulk of Puna's population handling 91% of EMS calls in Puna. Medic 19 out of the Volcano Fire Station serves a less populated area of Puna but fills a wide geographical gap (45 miles) between Kea'au and Ka'u.

The district of Puna is nearly the geographical size of Oahu, has a population of 45,326 and is the fastest growing district in the State of Hawai'i with a population increase of 44% since 2000. Over the next 15 years the population of Puna is expected to grow to 75,000 nearly half the current population of Hawai'i Island.



Access to primary health care in Puna is challenging for the community, for many Puna residents primary care services are as much as 30 miles away. Coupled with economic and transportation challenges along with physician shortages, EMS has become the access point to health care for many residents of Puna.

The volume of EMS calls has increased progressively each year, and with the projected population growth this trend will undoubtedly continue and impact our ability to deliver high quality EMS services. EMS cases in Puna account for more than 30% of all 911 calls in Hawai'i County, to compound this, the round-trip time from response to back in quarters on a patient transport is approximately 2 hours. It is become common for Medics 5 and 10 to have ten or more transports in a twenty-four hour shift the resulting simple math means; our personnel can essentially be on the road for nearly twenty-four consecutive hours. As a result, the potential for fatigue, errors in judgment, driving and overall safety are of great concern for our personnel.

The increase in Puna's call volume is also having a collateral impact on two of our departments busiest units located in Hilo (Medic's 1 and 3) who respond to a combined 34 % of all Hawai'i County 911 EMS calls. Medic's 1 and 3 cover the Puna district when the Puna units are unavailable. Since 2007 there has been a 50% increase in responses from Medics 1 and 3 into the Puna District and there are numerous times when the majority of our East Hawai'i EMS assets Medics 1, 3, 5, 10, 19 are all covering calls in the Puna district leaving the most populated area (Hilo) without adequate services. The mandated Department of Health contracted response time for Puna and the surrounding area of Hawai'i County is 20 minutes or less, this time is being exceeded 16%-39% of the time in Puna.

An additional ambulance on the County of Hawai'i, specifically located in the district of Puna will greatly enhance the County of Hawai'i's EMS system. And enable the Hawai'i Fire Department to effectively serve the needs of our islands residents and visitors.

The HCFD urge your committees' support on the passage of SB 2658, SD1.

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

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

SB2658

My name is Errol McGowan,

I have lived and worked here on Kauai for 10 years. I am a Paramedic here on Kauai as well. I am writing in SUPPORT of Bill SB2658

I see first hand every single shift how important an additional 911 Ambulance and Station would be for the residence and visitors of Kauai. Due to a large increase in our visitors and increase in our VISITOR population, we stretch our current resources daily. If you are sick or injured on a busy day you may not get Advanced Life Support care for up to an additional ½ or so depending where our 5 units are for the day. On top of running 911, a few of our 911 units also have to provide non emergent transfer services during the evening and day if we do not have a transfer crew. The last time a new emergency medical services ambulance unit was added on Kauai was in 1992, immediately after Hurricane Iniki. The North Shore of Kauai is a large district which covers Moloaa, Kilauea, Princeville, Hanalei, Wainiha, and Ke'e Beach Park. Outside the Kilauea Unit, the nearest ambulance station is located Kapaa. The time line to reach the only acute hospital on Kauai can be forty minutes or more. Similarly, the ambulance unit on the west district covers Eleele, Hanapepe, Kaumakani, Waimea, Kekaha, Polihale Beach Park, and up Kokee State Park. Response and transport times to the only Level 3 trauma center 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 with patients from their own district creates a domino effect of lack of emergency medical services to other areas. A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual. AMR has been continuously providing optimum EMS services above and beyond the funding it receives from the State. During flash flood conditions where the HWY. Is closed due to flooding, Hanalei Bridge is closed, AMR provides additional ambulance unit to cover the Hanalei to Ke'e areas at no cost to the County or State. I respectfully urge your committee's passage of SB2658 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance for Kauai.

Respectfully

Errol S. McGowan



March 15, 2018

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

Re: SB 2658: 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 SB 2658. AMR provides 911 services on Kauai, 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 SB 2658 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, Hawaii County and Honolulu as the areas of highest need.

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 SB 2658 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.

March 13, 2018

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

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

RE: SUPPORT TESTIMONY SB 2658 SD1

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 and 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 SB 2658 SD1 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four –hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for Kauai and Hawaii County.

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:25:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:



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**

March 15, 2018

Committee on Health and Human Services

Testimony by

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

**S. B. No. 2658 SD 1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR 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 349 HFFA members serving in the County of Hawaii Fire Department – the only fire-based emergency medical service (EMS) among the four County Fire Departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters – and 142 HFFA members serving in the County of Kauai Fire Department.

HFFA supports S.B. No. 2658 SD 1 as both Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i have 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.

Specific to Hawai'i Island, access to primary and acute medical care within the Makalei and Puna areas have been chronically challenging as services are currently as much as 30 miles away for many residents. 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 our Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i residents.

The request presented in S.B. No. 2658 SD 1 would aid not only our first responders in meeting the ever-increasing demands and needs for emergency medical services on Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i, but it would also better serve our communities.

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

Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 10:00 am
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: SB 2658, SD1 – 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 SB 2658, SD1 which appropriates funds for an ambulance unit for the County of Kaua'i as well as the County of Hawaii, 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.

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:47:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a resident of Kauai since 1989 I have seen the increase of population growth as well as the significant increase of tourism. In 1992 when we recieved our latest ambulance station the population was approximately 51,000 residents in addition to our tourists. Today according to United States census data our resident population is estimated at 72,029. Also, according to recent information from the Hawaii Tourist Authority, Kauai received 1,276,803 visitors in 2017.

As of January 2018 Kauai has already seen an increase of 10% in visitors from last year. Additionally, Kauai has been notified to expect an additional 40% increase in air passengers due to new direct flight arrangements through various airlines.

If there was ever a time for an additional ambulance station, now is the time. We simply have too many people and not enough resources to cover the ever increasing growth of the island. Mahalo for hearing my testimony and for your support of this bill.

Jeffrey A. Eisenbach

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 11:02:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of SB 2658 SD1

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. A thirty to fortyfive minute response time is unacceptable.

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 24/7 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

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:20:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma L Ladendecker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii cannot continue to ignoring a health and safety need for all Kauai residents.

* Specifically, Kauai needs funds to establish a 24hr, 7 days/week emergency medical services ambulance unit.

* As of 2015, Kauai has a population of 71,735.

* 1992 was the year when Kauai received its last new ambulance. It is 2017 and the Legislature has been continuing this bill or allowing others to get in front of it.

* Response time to the North Shore of Kauai is over the safety limit of 20 minutes or less.

* The DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch has noted that Kauai County has great need for additional ambulance units.

I am a senior citizen living in Kauai and this item is a concern for my fellow senior citizens living here. I shudder to think that if I am in need of an ambulance, it will not get to me on time.

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:52:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cyndi Ayonon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 7:12:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Milo Spindt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. It has been more than 20 years since the State added an ambulance unit for Kauai and the both the local and tourist populations have grown by more than 40% during that time.

Aloha,

Milo Spindt

Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health & Human Services

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

From: Jen Chahanovich
CEO, Wilcox Memorial Hospital

Re: SB 2658, SD1 -- Testimony in Support

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 SB 2658, SD1 which appropriates funds for an ambulance unit for the County of Kaua'i as well as the County of Hawaii, 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.

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:55:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2658-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:24:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sasha Doorish	Kauai Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern-

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2658. I am writing in Support of Bill SB2658. I believe it is in the best interest and safety of Kauai's community to appropriate funds to operate a new 24/7 ambulance station. As the population and visitor industry here continues to grow, so does the need for emergency medical services. An additional ambulance will help to shorten call response times, and get patients the critical care they need faster. I strongly & respectfully urge your committee to support and pass Bill SB2658.

Mahalo for your time & Kokua,

Sasha Doorish

EMT, AMR Kauai County



Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 3618 • Lihue • Hawaii • 96766
(808) 639-6556 • info@kauaifilipinochamber.org
www.kauaifilipinochamber.org



March 13, 2018

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The Honorable John Mizuno
Chair, Committee on Health & Human Services
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

The Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of SB 2658, SD1. Passage of SB 2658, SD1 would add significantly to the level of care to our visitors and residents with 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.

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 Kauai County ambulance response time data from the DOH pre-hospital EMS database. The mandated DOH contracted response time Hanalei, Kauai is 20 minutes or less. The data demonstrates that over the 7-year period (2010 – 2016) the Kauai County response times in Hanalei and environs exceeded the 20-minute threshold 34% of the time. Adding an additional ambulance unit and personnel resources to this district will improve response times.

This ambulance unit will add to the existing resources on Kauai and will help reduce death and disability among residents.

We respectfully urge your committee's passage of SB 2658, SD1 to appropriate funds to establish a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency medical services ambulance unit for Kauai.

Sincerely,

Laurie Yoshida
President