

# SB2658

**Measure Title:** MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

**Report Title:** Emergency Medical Services; Ambulance; County of Kauai; County of Hawaii; Appropriation (\$)

**Description:** Appropriates funds for one ambulance unit each for the county of Kauai and the county of Hawaii, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs.

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** CPH, WAM

**Introducer(s):** BAKER, ENGLISH, ESPERO, GABBARD, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, RUDERMAN, Ihara, Kim, Nishihara



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 2658**  
**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR**  
**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**  
Hearing Date: February 1, 2018 9:30AM Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of SB 2658, and defer to the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel  
3 priorities. SB 2658 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 two additional ambulance units; one for the  
6 County of Kauai and one for the County of Hawaii. Operational costs include equipment,  
7 supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel. The  
8 ambulance units are to be a twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week service for the counties of  
9 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 Kauai and Hawaii County as the areas of high 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.

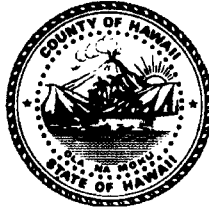
8 DOH contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide 24/7, 911 ambulance  
9 services for Kauai County. AMR operates five ground ambulances in Kauai county. According  
10 to US Census figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population grew 4.9% from 67,090 to  
11 70,447. No additional 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 figures, between 2010 and July 1, 2016, the population of Hawaii County increased 4.5%  
15 from 185,079 to 193,680. No additional ambulances have been authorized for Hawaii County  
16 since 2005.

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

22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 26, 2018

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 2658, Ambulances for Kauai and Hawaii County – Making an  
Appropriation for Emergency Medical Services  
Public Hearing: 02-01-18; 9:30 am – Conf. Rm. 229**

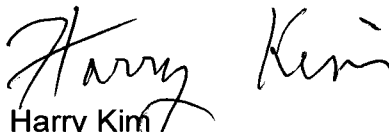
Thank you for this opportunity to support funding for two new, much needed, ambulances, one each for Hawaii and Kauai.

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

1. The population of Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Harry Kim  
Mayor

# Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

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

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



January 26, 2018

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

Committee on Commerce Consumer, Protection, and Health

Thursday, February 1, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker 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, 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.

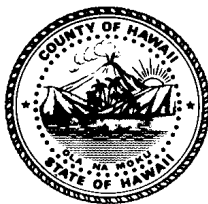
HSAC supports this measure for the reasons stated above. We urge the Committee on Commerce Consumer, Protection, and Health to support his measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DRU KANUHA  
HSAC PRESIDENT

*From the office of -*  
Council Member  
District 3



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

**SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 26, 2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2658, to fund ambulance vehicles and operational costs in the counties of Kauai and Hawai'i. 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 SB 2658, 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

**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**

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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 26, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR BRUN  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES**

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Thursday, February 1, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2658, 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 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 Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

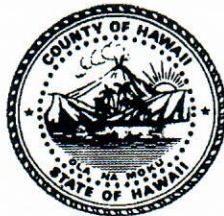
Sincerely,

**ARTHUR BRUN**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:mn

**Eileen O'Hara**  
Council Member  
Council District 4

**Chair:** Environmental  
Management Committee



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

**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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hawai'i State Senate

January 31, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2658, from Hawai'i County Council District 4  
To be heard by CPH on 02-01-18 9:30AM in conference room 229**

Aloha Chair Baker 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



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](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

January 30, 2018

TO: Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Stacy Crivello, Secretary   
Hawaii State Association of Counties

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2658, 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 in 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:sb2658\_paf18-013\_ssm

**Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 9:30am**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

To: Senator Roslyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich  
CEO, Wilcox Memorial Hospital

**Re: Testimony in Support – SB 2658**

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 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.

**Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 9:30am  
Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

To: Senator Roslyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

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

**Re: SB 2658 – Testimony in Support**

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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 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.



## 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.hawaii firefighters.org](http://www.hawaii firefighters.org)

**THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2018**

**February 1, 2018**

**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

**Testimony by**

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

**S. B. No. 2658      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** 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 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.

January 30, 2018

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

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

RE: SUPPORT TESTIMONY SB 2658

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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 <a href="http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/">http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/</a>		

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



3- 3420 Kuhio Highway, Suite 300 • Lihue, HI 96766

**March 1, 2018 at 9:30am**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

To: Chair Roz Baker  
Vice Chair Jill Tokuda

From: Kurt Akamine  
Vice President  
Ohana Pacific Management Company

Re: **Support for SB 2658**  
**Appropriation for Emergency Management Services**

Ohana Pacific Management Company, Inc. (OPMC) owns and operates five post-acute care facilities servicing more than 500 patients on Oahu and Kauai as well as an adult day health program and home health agency on Kauai.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2658. Emergency Medical Services Provider Group is requesting additional ambulance units for Kauai County and the Puna district in Hawaii County. DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Branch confirmed that by examining ambulance response time data from the pre-hospital EMS database, this should be a priority.

It has been nearly 26 years since the last Ambulance unit was added on the island of Kauai. According to US Census figures, between 2010 and 2015, the population of Kauai grew from 67,090 to 71,735- a 6.9% increase. A timely response to an emergency is critical to increase the likelihood of a good outcome for a sick or injured individual.

As a provider of healthcare services on the island of Kauai, we clearly see the need for at least one additional ambulance unit. We ask that for your support for this measure.



**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:26:39 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andy Ancheta	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 12:01:32 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:11:43 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto		Support	No

Comments:

Increases in resident & visitor populations on Big Island & Kauai justify additional EMS resources to decrease critical response times for Advanced Life Support ambulances. Increases in 9-1-1 call volume parallels this NEED as well. Please approve SB2658 to ADD EMS resources to Kauai and the Big Island. Thank you.

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:29:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Martinez		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:01:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jillian wenderlich		Support	No

Comments:

I have worked both for City and County of Oahu and AMR on Kauai. I've seen all ambulances out on kauai on a single mass casualty call. It is imperative that we establish another is not especially with our tourism being boosted by more flights. For the safety of our locals and visitor please consider this. More people will die if we don't acquire another ambulance unit. Thank you for your time.

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:27:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

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

Making an appropriation for Emergency Medical Services

Appropriate funds for the county of Kauai and the county of Hawaii, including equipment, supplies, and personnel cost.

We have 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.

Currently there are times when the timely delivery of prehospital advanced life support care can be a challenge

The majority of Kaua'i 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 30 or 45 minute response time acceptable? I don't think so.

All people on Kauai in all of our communities from Kekaha to Haena and every 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 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**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:55:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cody Bonilla		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

An ambulance for Kauai is well over due. The last addition to kauai's Current total of 5 ambulances was in 1992! Since then you can only imagine how much the population and tourist industry has grown. Please support this bill, it is much needed. 15 years has gone by with no additional resources needs to be seriously looked at and in need of your support.

Thank you!