

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

WRITTEN

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2658**  
**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018 11:00am

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of S.B. 2658, 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 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 the County of Kauai, the County of Hawaii, and City and County of  
20 Honolulu as the 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 County of Hawaii 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.

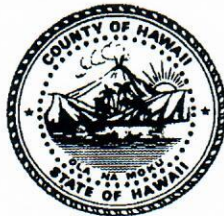
17 The State's investment in 911 ambulance services statewide in contracts with the counties for  
18 EMS services totals approximately \$75 million with almost \$42 million from billing being  
19 returned to the State's General fund in FY 2017. Should the Legislature wish to increase the  
20 Kauai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

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

25 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**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.

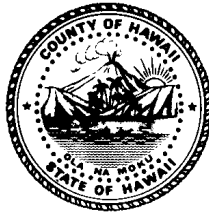
Please consider the life-saving impact this Bill will have on the people of Hawai'i, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

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

County of Hawai'i  
Council District 9 -  
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564  
(808) 887-2069

Email: [tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov)

**Chair:** Committee on Agriculture,  
Water & Energy

**Vice Chair:** Committee on  
Environmental Management

**HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III**  
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
District 9  
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 21, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Email: [sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Email: [senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov)

RE: **Support of SB2658**

Hearing Date/Time: February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2658**, which appropriates funds for one ambulance unit each for the County of Kaua'i and the County of Hawai'i, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs.

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is critical to the survival rate of residents and visitors alike for the County of Hawai'i. Pursuant to the U.S. Census figures, Hawai'i County's population increased 4.5% or by approximately 8,500 people between 2010 and 2016, yet there has not been an ambulance authorized for Hawai'i County since 2005, and I therefore strongly urge the enactment of SB2658.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

TIM RICHARDS

Hawai'i County Council, District 9

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

February 21, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

**Re: SB 2658 Relating to Ambulances for Kauai and Hawai'i County**  
**Hearing Date: 02/23/18 – 11:00 am; Conference Room 211**

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 with appropriate dollar amounts inserted.

Respectfully submitted,

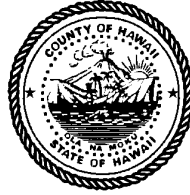
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i





**Harry Kim**  
Mayor



**Darren J. Rosario**  
Fire Chief

**Renwick J. Victorino**  
Deputy Fire Chief

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

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

**SUBJECT: SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Hearing Date: Friday, February 23, 2018**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 11:00 am, Conference Room 211**

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

The Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD) supports SB2658, 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 Pahoia (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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 932-2901 or [darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov) should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

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

February 22, 2018

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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means 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 "Arthur Brun", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

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

AMK:lc

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

February 22, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ARRYL KANESHIRO**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL**  
**SERVICES**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means 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 cursive script that reads "Arryl Kaneshiro".

**ARRYL KANESHIRO**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

**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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February 22, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL**  
**SERVICES**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

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

Sincerely,

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

AMK:lc

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 22, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL**  
**SERVICES**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means 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 "Mason K. Chock".

**MASON K. CHOCK**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
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February 22, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO  
COUNCIL CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2658, Making An Appropriation For Emergency Medical Services. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health to purchase an ambulance vehicle and fund the costs associated with operating the ambulance on a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week basis 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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MEL RAPOZO  
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
Derek S.K. Kawakami  
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February 22, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF ROSS KAGAWA  
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
SB 2658, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2658, 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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means 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 "R/K", is written over a horizontal line.

ROSS KAGAWA  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County

AMK:lc





February 23, 2018

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, 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 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 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.

**Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00 am  
Conference Room 211**

Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, 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.

February 22, 2018

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, 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.

**Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00 am**  
**Conference Room 211**

Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich  
CEO, Wilcox Memorial Hospital

**Re: SB 2658 -- 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 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.



**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:29:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:09:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2658**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:03:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan McKnight	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kauai County is in desperate need of another EMS unit! We have not had a new station since 1992 and our population growth as well as the high volume of visitors is greatly affecting our response when multiple calls come in. Please pass this bill so we can better serve our communities here on the Garden Island.

Thank you- Ryan McKnight M.I.C.T

Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB2387 SD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support SB2387 SD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Shay Chan Hodges	Lorrie Santos	Tina Clothier	Pualei Kaohelaulii	Carol Ignacio
Maria Guardino	Jeny Bissell	Lee Buenconsejo-Lum	Cyrus Howe Cristeta Ancog	Helen Barrow
Patricia Fleck	Kathleen Hagan	Julieta Rajlevsky	Alan Trinh	Diane Omura
Debbie Apolo	Lillian Coltin	Allison Seales	Paul Ho	Michael Kellar
Jen Azuma Chrupalyk	JoAnn Yukimura	Valerie Yontz	Curtis Palmer	Cynthia Chow
Christopher La Chica	Patricia Blair	Kat McGlone	Annalise Busekrus	Skye Madigan
Judy Iwamoto	Mae Kyono	Barbara Nosaka	Michelle Gray	Alyson Borrego

Emi Orikasa	Kathryn Braun	Harmonee Williams	Alohalyn Espejo	Marilyn Gagen
Tyler Ralston				