



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2017

LATE

February 8, 2017

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Testimony by

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

S. B. 453 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents more than 1,900 professional active-duty and 800 retired fire fighters throughout the State with 348 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.

On behalf of our members, HFFA supports S.B. 453 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 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. 453 would aid HFFA members in not only meeting the increasing demands and needs for emergency medical services on Hawai'i Island but also in co-responses with the private ambulance services on Kaua'i. The passing of the bill positively impacts first responder service to our communities.

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



February 8th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich
CEO, Wilcox Memorial Hospital

Re: Testimony in Support – SB 453

My name is Jen Chahanovich and I am the chief executive officer of Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Memorial Hospital 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 Memorial Hospital 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 453 which appropriates moneys to the Department of Health for the purchase of ambulance vehicles and the operational costs, including equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel, for two twenty-four-hour, seven-days-a-week ambulance units. One unit shall be allocated to the county of Kaua'i and the other to the county of Hawai'i for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Timely access to life-saving health care is essential for all communities. The availability of ambulances and emergency medical personnel are critical components to 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.

baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 4:38 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jillcaitlin@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB453 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

LATE

SB453

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jillian wenderlich	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I work with AMR on Kauai and have seen first hand how our lack of resources for the community can pose problems to those in need. Recently, I worked a 48 hour shift in Lihue and had 17 calls. During multiple calls, we were contacted by dispatch that another call was happening with no available unit to respond to them. While we were able to bring our patient to the hospital, turn around and go to the next call, our response time was significantly delayed, further compromising the next patient. If we have any sort of mass casualty, all of our resources are exhausted, leaving the entire island "wide open.." It is with great hope for our community that this bill is supported and we are granted another ambulance unit.

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

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 2:22 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB453 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

Categories: Late

LATE

SB453

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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