

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti

Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura

Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2019

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of SB 1410 SD2

Appropriating funds to expand the Kau Rural Health Clinic to improve access to urgent care and outpatient behavioral health services.

Dan Brinkman, Regional CEO, East Hawaii Region of HHSC

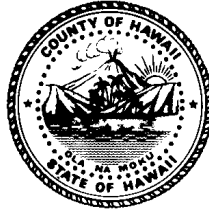
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Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 12, 2019

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 1410, SD1, HD1 Relating to Emergency Services (Ka'u Hospital)

While I do not have enough information to comment on part II of your proposed SB 1410, SD1, HD1, I want to thank you for retaining the original provision in the bill (now Part I) dealing with the Ka'u Rural Health Clinic.

Ka'u Hospital is a small rural facility serving a very large geographic area. Although the traditional population centers of Pahala and Naalehu are fairly stable, the number of residents in Ocean View has grown enormously, and so has traffic (and the potential for traffic-related injuries). While Ocean View can be serviced by either Ka'u Hospital or Kona Community Hospital, the need for emergency care in Ka'u is clear.

I know you have limited resources and unlimited priorities. I can only hope that Part I of proposed SB1410, SD1, HD1, will be seen as a small investment of funds with life-saving rewards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

IRONWORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

March 13, 2019

John Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Health
House of Representative
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health:

Re: Support for SB1410 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency Services

We are in support of SB1410, SD2 HD1, Relating to Emergency Services.

First, it should be recognized that there is a shortage of Emergency Services in Hawaii, especially in areas out of the urban core. We have seen in the Nanakuli and Waianae districts alone an Emergency Service vehicle making a run every hour on the hour if not shorter. Consequently, if there is a multi-vehicle accident or multi individuals needing services there is not enough vehicles near the area to service them. If there is a major trauma case, the only available trauma center is in town. This would mean that the ambulance servicing the individual will be out of commission until it drops off its patient. Such that the area would be short if another trauma case happens.

This is compounded by the fact that if the Emergency Service vehicle needs to transport their client to town, there is a huge absence of service vehicles in the area. This is uncalled for especially when we have seen the need for more and not less ambulances in the rural districts.

It is a fact that the population base of Hawaii has been increasing every year. However, the amount of emergency services has not proportionately kept up with this increase. Consequently, there is a huge strain on manpower and equipment to keep up with services. This has been shown when the amount of sick leave has increased in the paramedics. Therefore, it is imperative to review the needs of this important service.

The overriding public policy of protecting the general public should not be compromised if the proposed policy is continued to be used.



LATE

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Health

Senate Bill 1410 Proposed HD1: Relating to Emergency Services

Chair Mizuno and members of the committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers —supports Senate Bill 1410 Proposed House Draft 1, particularly Part II of the measure, which would seek a study by the Department of Health on the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System to identify issues and problems, and subsequently propose initiatives to improve the system.

We commend the hard work put forth by the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System, our county EMS divisions, and the first responders on the front line. These are often the unsung heroes of our community and play vital roles in supporting our residents and visitors during times of injury or life threatening situations.

The visitor industry, the community, and all private and public sectors at large, rely on the services provided by our EMS providers, and it is evident through the increasing number of emergency calls that are reported annually. Whether it is the growing number of incidents, abuse of the 911 lines, or sheer lack of manpower and ambulances, we are seeing that more and more is being demanded of our first responders.

With public safety as a major pillar of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, we are constantly looking at ways to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders and to improve upon the ways in which we keep our residents and visitors feeling safe and secure. In that regard, we support this proposed draft, being coined as "Keo's Law", as a means to conduct a study to find issues at the state and county levels in regards to emergency services and to seek methods in addressing them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

LATE

SB-1410-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 6:10:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. WE ON THE WAI`ANAE COAST HAVE A CRITICAL MEED FOR EFFECTIVE NEED OF AN AMBULANCE HALE.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

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

Re: SB 1410, SD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES (Ka'u Hospital)

Rural health care facilities often face a multitude of issues, ranging from lack of specialists, equipment, and unproportioned physician to patient ratios. Although it is hard to address the wide range of problems that Ka'u Hospital may face, allocation of funds, albeit any amount, can go a long way.

Coming from Guam, where there is only one public hospital (GMH) to serve the general populous, I understand the hardships that both Ka'u Hospital and the people it serves may face.

Looking into Ka'u hospital, it has a four-bed Emergency Department that serves 3,000 patients a year. However, not all patients coming to the ED present with medical issues deemed as emergent and require immediate care. To accommodate to such patients, the incorporation of an urgent care facility to the hospital will allow for a decrease in influx and stress towards the ED. In addition, this shift in patients will allow for patients to be seen in an improved timely manner, which may translate to improved patient care.

As mentioned prior, Guam is the only public hospital on the island, and at times patient's come as they could not schedule an appointment with their primary care provider, lack a primary care provider, or the clinics are closed at their time of need. What unfolded were increased wait times outside the ED, angry patients who felt they were not treated in a timely manner, and overworked staff. However, GMH had incorporated an urgent care facility, and which in turn made a difference. Although it is only one of many problems a rural healthcare facility may face, any change and improvement leads to a substantial impact towards better patient care and outcomes.

Although resources are limited, and priorities are plentiful, I write in hopes that SB 1410 will push through, and allocation of funds will be made to Ka'u hospital. Even a small investment can lead to life-saving rewards.

Sincerely,

Kevin Martinez

SB-1410-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:50:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
VICTOR M. FLINT	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Victor M. Flint. I am a retired Federal Fire Department Hawaii Firefighter/EMT. As a Nationally Registered & Certified EMT. I did my clinicals at the Waianae HFD Fire Station #26 as well as other Fire Stations. But it was at the Waianae Fire Station that I witnessed the most abuse of our EMS system.

There is an Advanced Life Support Unit at Waianae Fire Station. I was assigned to that unit. During my shift we responded to people who called 911 "Feeling Sick". They would be calling from a pay phone at Yuen's Store in Nanakuli. Our crew responded to Yuen's and pick up our patient (adult male). I was tasked to do the take vitales and do a "SAMPLE" History. My first impression was that this patient was extreemly dirty and hauna (stink). We took our patient to WCCHC Emergency Room and checked him in. As we were cleaning our Rig ... we saw our patient walk out of the ER and walk down the hill. The lead MICT said that he is going to Waianae Mall (a short distance away). About 15 minutes later, as we were heading back to the Station on Farrington Hwy, we saw our patient walking into Waiane Mall.

About two hours later, we got another emergency call from Dispatch " Adult Male Feeling Sick at Yuen's Store Nanakuli". Same exact thing. There was only one Advanced Life Support Ambulance in those days. This means that there would be a delayed response in case of a real medical emergency and/or accident. I was advised by our lead MICT that we have to take care of all our patients no matter what. We did take care of all of our patients and practiced all of our medical prodocals.

With the increase of medical runs EMS responds to, it critical that our EMS responders have the tools, euipement and trained manpower to do the job. Also, there needs to be some type of consiquence to those who abuse our 911 system for their own needs.

Delayed emergency responded coast everyone time, money and precious lives.

I support SB1410 Relating to Emergenct Srevices. I encourage the Dept of Health to conduct studies and identify issues and problems with our EMS with the intent of improving our EMS system.

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NAME/TITLE: MAurelin, LPN

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NAME/TITLE: Lyndol Jason Redus Lead Tech Ka'u Hospital

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NAME/TITLE: Sherric J. Bazin / Director of Nursing

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NAME/TITLE: Kristen Ishikawa, RN

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NAME/TITLE: Esther Zamora, RN

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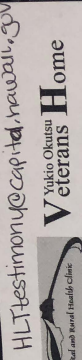
NAME/TITLE: Jennifer Grace - Clerk Typist IV

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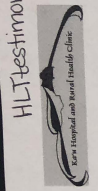
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HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION



Hilo Testimony Capt. H. A. ...

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NAME/TITLE: Nanci Ingram, RN,

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NAME/TITLE: Norma Adelino - CNA

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NAME/TITLE: Jane Anabela CNA

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Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti

Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura

Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2019

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of SB 1410 SD2

Appropriating funds to expand the Kau Rural Health Clinic to improve access to urgent care and outpatient behavioral health services.

NAME/TITLE: Yolanda Barrios Ipa

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 1410 SD2** that appropriates funds to expand the Kau Rural Health Clinic to improve access to urgent care and outpatient behavioral health services.

Funding to expand our Rural Health Clinic's space and hours of operation would best serve the population. The clinic is located within the hospital and provides approximately 5,000 clinic visits a year for primary care. Hours of operation are 8:00-4:45 am, Monday through Friday. It is one of three clinics in the Ka'u District, none of which have the capacity to provide urgent care. The Ka'u RHC is uniquely positioned to provide urgent care with on-site x-ray and lab services as well as its proximity to the Emergency Department should a true emergency arise.

Funding for the Ka'u RHC can help expand the clinic's hours of operation and services, including urgent care and behavioral health services. The Ka'u District is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for Mental Health. Many of our patients need these services, but do not have access to it. When patients in Ka'u require mental health services, they are usually referred to mental health providers in Hilo or Kona due to the lack of providers in Ka'u. Unfortunately, travel time and expense deter many from accessing these needed services.

Finally, funding dedicated to the Ka'u RHC could be used for clinic expansion and renovations, and salaries for additional providers and support staff. Thank you for the opportunity to express my **support for SB 1410 SD 2** to improve primary care in Ka'u.

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

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NAME/TITLE: Danarie Dacalio / Accountant

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NAME/TITLE: Lauri Redus, Rural Health Clinic Practice Administrator

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Daniel Belcher, MD, Chair, East Hawaii Region Board of HHSC

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LATE

SB-1410-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:26:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher L. Kuaiwa	Waianae Coast Community Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

As an active board member of the Waianae Coast Community Foundation I would like to submit my written testimony in strong support of SB1410. I am compelled to submit this testimony based on statistics recently presented at a community meeting held in Nanakuli by the Dept. of Transportation's Representative Mr. Ed Sniffen. He stated that money follows development and that the Westside of Oahu has seen very little development in the past 15 years. He also stated 15 years ago there were only 25-30k vehicles on the road per day on the Waianae Coast and today that number has doubled to 60k per day. My assumption is the increase in vehicles directly correlates to a rise in population. It is very unfortunate to also learn we have not had an increase in EMS to support this increase and in recent years many lives could have possibly been saved. I am aware that it is very difficult to keep up with changing circumstances of our complex communities. At the very least a study to understand where the shortfalls are and how we can support them must be completed. Please move this Bill forward not only for the Waianae Coast but the greater State of Hawai'i as well. Mahalo nui.

LATE

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**Representative John Mizuno
Chair, of Health Human Service Committee
State Capitol, State of Hawaii**

**RE: KEO's LAW – 2019 SB1401 SD 2 PROPOSED HD-1 –
RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Aloha Representative Mizuno and Members of Human
Services Committee:**

**Mahalo for having this opportunity to speak in support of
SB1410, SD2 (Proposed HD1) Relating to Emergency Services
to the effect of the responsibility to the Department of Health,
State of Hawaii. With the proposed amendments to ensure
the Statewide Emergency Medical Services**

**My name is Patty Kahanamoku Teruya, A mother, A Nana, A
Community Leader of the Wai'anae Coast. My effort is to
bring attention to a tragedy of losing my son, Keo
Kahanamoku Aiwohi on Friday, February 15, 2019 in Nanakuli
due to the response time from EMS and their decision of
transporting him to Queens West Ewa rather than the facility
nearby which is the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Center
just about 4 minute drive to the newly opened Emergency
Facility. I believe that government has a responsibility to
adequately equip our Emergency Medical Services system to
improve the ability to save lives and properly navigate to a
medical facility. It is with this body of legislatures that must
request a comprehensive independent review of personnel,**

personnel training, communications, emergency transportation, facilities, with medical and critical care services coordination and use of available of public safety agencies.

My support is not just for the Wai'anae Coast but for State wide, to ensure that all of our ambulance services are able to provide emergency medical services within the required response times and not to be stretched so thin that life measures can become life threatening.

On February 12, 2019, (3) days prior to my son's passing a Nanakuli man died due to the fact of the EMS ambulance arrived too late due to mechanical malfunction. We need to provide skilled emergency service in the rural areas off our communities that can treat and stabilize patients before transferring to appropriate medical facility.

It is unacceptable to have a shortage of ambulance or ambulance that are old with high mileage and engine complications. Or employees that are stretched too thin with overtime due to the shortage of staff. With the volume of calls that was stated in November 15, 2018 by your Chief Honolulu EMS Dean Nakano stress with only 20 ambulance on Oahu to serve nearly one million residents plus another 10 million visitors annually. H says that they cannot keep up with any of the calls. He requested and pleaded for help...by mentioning that they are in a critical stage where days, were

not going to be able to respond to all the calls that they receive in a timely manner.

At this point, he states we are not meeting our required response time, because like he said, were stretched to the limit.

A quote from November 13 2017 by Council Chair Ernie Martin, wanted to tap Federal funds to pay for more ambulances. A Resolution was proposed in City Council to buy four new ambulances using Federal Block Grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

State Senator Green said he favored Ernie Martin's proposal given the Legislature longstanding reluctance to increase funding for ambulances. On November 13, 2017 from Senator Josh Green an emergency doctor. I'm so frustrated we can spend three days and come up with 2.4 billion for Rail, and we can't otherwise spend a couple of weeks at the Capital and find out ways to protect people from heart attack, strokes, other illness from log awaits to get to the hospital. And now today Josh Green is our Lieutenant Governor.

I urge you to pass out SB 1401 for the Department of Health conduct a study on the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System to identify issues and problems and how to improve. All findings of DOH is to submit reports of its findings back to the Legislature no later than 20 days to convening of the 2020 regular session. Not just conduct a

study but to appropriate funds into Public Safety and to our First Responders in the State of Hawaii.

I want to Thank Representative Mizuno and his staff and committee members for Section 4, that This Act shall be known as "Keo's Law". On behalf of my son and children and our family we thank you for your attention on this matter. WE support KEO'S Law!

Mahalo!