



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 281 S.D.1 H.D.1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 3, 2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department **strongly supports** S.B. 281 S.D. 1 H.D. 1 which
2 appropriates funds required for collective bargaining, other current expenses, and the
3 continuation of the three new ambulances appropriated for FY 19 that are not included in the
4 executive budget, HB2 HD1 SD1 CD1. Additionally, the estimated cost to review the current
5 emergency medical services (EMS) system and make recommendations is between \$50,000.00
6 to \$100,000.00.

7 **Department Testimony:** The funds appropriated in S.B. 281 S.D.1 H.D. 1 are vitally needed
8 for FY 20 and FY 21 to meet collective bargaining requirements, recurring personnel costs, other
9 current expenditures, and continue funding the three new ambulances (Oahu, Kauai, and Hawaii
10 County) for which funds are not included for Emergency Medical Services in HB2 HD1 SD1
11 CD1. Failure to meet these funding needs will result in catastrophic cuts in EMS care for
12 residents and visitors throughout the state.

13 Additionally, the DOH values continuous quality improvement. For the past few months, the
14 DOH has been in discussion with the United States National Highway Traffic Safety
15 Administration (NHTSA) regarding obtaining their services to perform a new review of the state
16 Emergency Medical Services system, the first since 1991. NHTSA has agreed to re-review the
17 Hawaii system. The DOH will coordinate the logistics of the review.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
Phone: (808) 723-7800 • Fax: (808) 723-7836



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB 281 SD1 HD1 Relating to the Department of Health

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department is in strong support of SB 281, SD1 HD1 and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this proposed legislation.

The Department, via its EMS Division, is the state contracted provider for EMS services for Oahu. Demand for EMS services continues to increase annually and is projected to continue to increase annually for the next decade due to Oahu's population demographics.

SB 281, SD1 HD1 provides for the funding required to continue the EMS Ambulance service in the State Department of Health Budget which came operational January 1, 2019 in the Urban Honolulu response area. To date, this EMS Unit has responded to 1050 calls for service. This translates to 6,300 annual call responses. This has exceeded our projected call volume of 4,418 for this new unit by 1,882 calls annually. To date, the addition of this unit has reduced the call demand on the other 5 units assigned to the urban Honolulu area by 13%.

The Legislature added funding for this service in the last Legislative session. However, the funding was for one year only and only provided for personnel costs. The cost of an ambulance vehicle, the support equipment, supplies, and operating costs are being absorbed by the Division at this time.

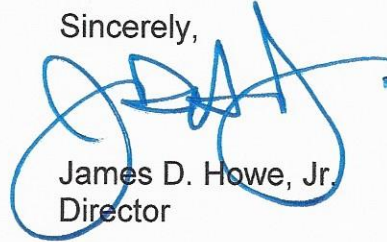
The addition of funds to ensure the continuation of this service is critical to ensuring the ability of our service to address the need for additional EMS capacity in the

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
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City and County of Honolulu and to assist in the system's ability to meet the projected increase in capacity requirements over the next 10 years due to Oahu's population demographics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure and your continued support for the pre-hospital medical needs of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Howe, Jr.', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

James D. Howe, Jr.
Director

SB-281-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:40:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darren Rosario	Hawaii Fire Department	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Hawaii Fire Department is in support of SB 281. Continual funding of the existing Emergency Medical Services ambulance units is critical in providing timely Advanced Life Support medical treatment to the gravely ill and injured. Call volume across the state has been increasing without any growth in services for quite some time. The recent additions to the County of Hawaii as well as our peer counties across the state has been long overdue and needs to continue. Please support the continuing funding of EMS across the State

SB-281-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 5:28:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American Medical Response	Support	Yes

Comments:



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**
www.wcchc.com

April 2, 2019

**Testimony to the Committee on Finance
April 3, 2019; 2:30pm; Conference Room 308**

Re: Support of SB 281 SD1 HD1 Relating to the Department of Health

**Submitted By: Richard Bettini, President and CEO, Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center**

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and Members of the Committee:

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center would like to state its strong support of SB 281 SD1 HD1.

The Waianae Coast faces severe isolation in events of fires, accidents, hurricanes, tsunamis, etc. that close off Farrington Hwy, the only access in /out of our community. In addition, the traffic within our community and on the freeway creates major barriers for our residents. Additional emergency medical services are essential to meet the needs of our community.

We understand the funding constraints of the state, as the Health Center is facing its own financial issues in maintaining its 24 hour emergency medical services for our community of 48,000.

It's an extremely difficult decision on where to prioritize limited funding. We ask that your Committee consider the needs of the Waianae Coast and support funding of all essential emergency services.

Mahalo.

SB-281-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:29:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Vasconcellos	Hana Health	Support	No

Comments:

Hana Health is in full support of SB281 SD1 HD1 "Keo's Law". It is imperative that the department of health ensure that the state medical emergency system is efficiently maintained and effectively provides emergency services to all areas of the state including the most isolated and remote population centers.

Hana, Maui is one of the most isolated areas in the state. Hana town is fifty-seven miles from Wailuku. The trip takes approximately two hours along a single lane road with six hundred seventeen turns and fifty-six one-lane bridges. Hana Health must coordinate urgent/emergent care with the ambulance service and provide assistance in stabilizing patients with life threatening illnesses or traumatic injuries. These services are required twenty-four hours a day because the center is the only full-service health care provider in the district. The coordination of emergency services and provision of life support care is absolutely essential to the 2,500 residents of Hana and the six hundred thousand tourists who visit annually. Hana Health is also a critical link to the State of Hawaii's disaster preparedness and the EMS network.

The cost of providing this significantly expanded level of care in our remote community has increased exponentially, in large part due to the cost of staffing the clinic 24/7, expanded use of required technology, facility repair/ maintenance, pharmacy/supply costs, etc. Please consider amending this bill to increase state support for Hana Healths emergency medical care, as well as the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center emergency department and other critical links to the state emergency network.

Thank you very much for your on-going support of our efforts.