

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
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2019

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health supports the priorities set forth in the
- 2 Governor's Executive Biennium Budget request. We also strongly support S.B. 281 S.D. 1
- 3 which adds funding for required collective bargaining, and other current expenses to the
- 4 Governor's budget.

- 5 **Department Testimony:** The funds appropriated in S.B. 281 S.D.1 are needed to fund the
- 6 Statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program for fiscal years 2019-2020 and
- 7 2020-2021 to meet collective bargaining requirements, recurring personnel costs, and other
- 8 current expenditures not included in the department's base budget.

- 9 These funds are also needed to continue the operation of the three new ambulances approved by
- 10 the 2018 Legislature for the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and City and County of Honolulu.
- 11 Failure to meet these funding needs will results in catastrophic cuts in EMS care for residents
- 12 and visitors throughout the state.

- 13 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

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

March 13, 2019

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department is in strong support of S.B. 281 SD 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.

S.B 281 SD 1 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.

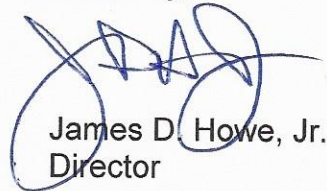
The addition of funds to ensure the continuation of this service is critical to ensuring the ability of our service to address the need for additional EMS capacity in the

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, 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,



James D. Howe, Jr.
Director

SB-281-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:13:11 PM

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

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

Comments: