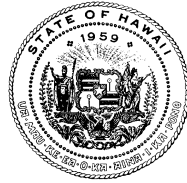


# SB877

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HEALTH.
Report Title:	Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulances; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Makes an appropriation to establish and fund two advanced life support ambulances based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii, including acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and personnel costs.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	KANUHA, S. CHANG, K. RHOADS, K. Kahele, Shimabukuro



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 877  
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: February 1, 2019 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department defers to the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget  
2 request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel priorities. SB 877  
3 appropriates out of the emergency medical services special fund the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
4 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as  
5 may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to establish and fund two advanced life support  
6 ambulances based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii, including the acquisition of  
7 vehicles and equipment and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services  
8 personnel. The requisite funds needed for a new unit are estimated to be \$1.5 million for the first  
9 year and \$1.1 million recurring in the second and future years of operation.

10

11 **Department Testimony:** The DOH recognizes the significant challenges to providing health  
12 care and emergency medical services to the expanding population of the County of Hawaii. This  
13 measure seeks to augment County of Hawaii emergency medical services for the county's  
14 residents and visitors. DOH contracts with the County of Hawaii Fire Department to operate 16  
15 ground ambulances and one medical helicopter on the Island of Hawaii.

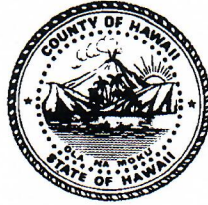
16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to establish two advanced life support  
17 ambulances to be based in the Puna and Makalei areas on the island of Hawaii, including the  
18 acquisition of vehicles and equipment and personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical  
19 services personnel.

1 Through ACT 053 SLH 2018, the Legislature authorized and appropriated funds for a new  
2 ambulance for Puna for one year. Prior to this appropriation, no additional ambulances had been  
3 authorized for Hawaii County since 2005.

4 The newly-appropriated Puna ambulance is currently being placed in service by the County of  
5 Hawaii. Discussions are ongoing to extend the funding for the new Puna ambulance for  
6 FY 2020 and 2021. Given the resources required to place the new Puna ambulance in service  
7 and its uncertain future, we respectfully request the legislature delay implementation of a  
8 Makalei ambulance until the new unit Puna has been fully incorporated into the County of  
9 Hawaii EMS system.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*From the office of -*  
Council Member  
District 3



Office: (808) 961-8396  
Fax: (808) 961-8912  
Email: [sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov)

**SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY**  
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

January 29, 2019

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members,

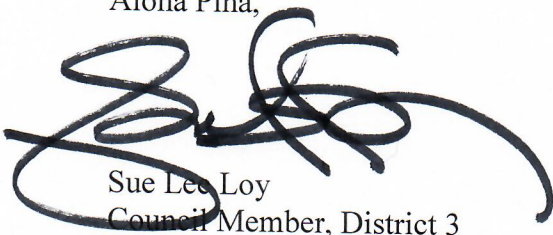
I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 877, providing for advanced life support ambulances in the districts of Puna and North Kona, and I also wish to thank you for your support of similar measures in the last two regular sessions of the Legislature.

Many Puna residents, some of whom I represent on the Hawai'i County Council, have low access to affordable health care, low opportunities for mobility, and multiple calls for service for various reasons – crime, traffic collisions, or medical emergencies.

The catastrophic 2018 eruption of Kīlauea volcano, which has covered much of Highway 132 and Highway 137, has created a popular but dangerous surfing beach at Pohoiki Bay, a one-hour drive from Hilo Medical Center. An advanced life support ambulance such as that contemplated in SB 877 would cut down on the critical wait time for the vast area between Kea'au Village, Volcano Village, and Isaac K. Hale Beach Park, and would reduce the need to pull in units from other districts. In short, it will save lives.

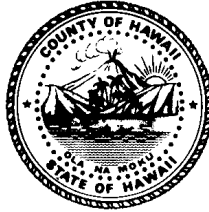
Although I am not as familiar with the need for an ambulance in Makalei, I understand that as in Puna, the area has undergone a rapid growth and development, and a boost in visitor arrivals, without a corresponding increase in the level of emergency services. I ask for your Committee's support in that regard as well. Thank you again for the opportunity to write in support of SB 877.

Aloha Piha,



Sue Lee Loy  
Council Member, District 3

**Karen Eoff**  
Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 29, 2019

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: **Testimony Supporting SB877**; A BILL RELATING TO HEALTH  
Hearing Date and Time: February 1, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

The Hawai'i County Council urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to appropriate funds for an advanced life support ambulance and equipment, and to employ State-certified emergency medical service personnel for the Makalei Fire Station and Daniel R. Sayre West Hawai'i Fire Training Center.

An advanced life support ambulance with personnel dispatched from Makalei will reduce the probability of death and disability, by increasing the timely response and ability to render effective aid to 911 calls, both of which are of paramount importance to successful outcomes from life-threatening incidents and sickness.

The general and aging population in the North Kona area has increased quickly and significantly creating a greater need for services, which is compounded by broad geographical transportation challenges as well as severe lack of emergency medical service resources.

I strongly recommend the passing of this bill.

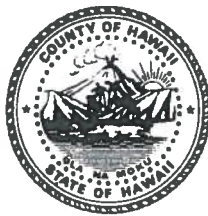
Sincerely,

---

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 31, 2019

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON SB 877, RELATING TO HEALTH  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Friday, February 1, 2019  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 877, relating to health. My testimony is submitted by my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to make an appropriation to establish and fund two advanced life support ambulances based in Puna and Makalei on the Island of Hawai'i, including acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and personnel expenses.

Population of these areas have significantly increased over the years, which has steadily increased the amount of call for emergency medical services. The Puna and Makalei area is very challenging for the communities as primary care services are as far as thirty miles away or more. Coupled with economic and transportation challenges, emergency medical services have become the health care access point for many residents. Due to lack of resources it is common for paramedics to be overworked and inundated with service calls for emergency medical services during their twenty-four hour shift, and causing a potentially hazardous working environment.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929  
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
WEBSITE: [www.hawaii firefighters.org](http://www.hawaii firefighters.org)

**THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2019**

**February 1, 2019**

**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

**Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO**

**S. B. No. 877                      RELATING TO HEALTH**

**CPH, WAM**

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State with more than 338 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.

HFFA **supports S. B. 877** as Hawai'i Island has experienced a number of factors that justifiably warrants the need for the additional EMS units, including the increase in EMS call volume; population growth; and the sheer land mass of the island.

Access to primary and acute medical care within the Puna and Makalei districts Hawaii Island has been chronically challenging as services are currently as much as 30 miles away for many residents. The volume of EMS calls have slowly 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 residents.

The request presented in S.B. 877 would aid not only our first responders in meeting the ever-increasing demands and needs for emergency medical services on Hawai'i Island, but it would also better serve our communities.

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





## **O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCL)**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: SB 877 Relating to Health

Aloha mai kakou Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 877 relating to Health**.

SB 877 makes an appropriation to establish and fund two advanced life support ambulances based in Puna and Makalei on the island of Hawaii, including acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and personnel costs.

Investment in our State's crumbling public health infrastructure is critical to ensuring preparedness for emerging threats: for preventing disease, illness, and injury in communities; and for promoting good health and wellbeing. Inadequate access to public health services has a disparate impact on poor, rural and minority communities where public health services are a significant source of healthcare. DPH will fight for increased investments in public health to better address emerging threats and the needs across our State. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 12, ln. 53-56, p. 13, ln. 1.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to provide access to public health services to the rural and minority communities, OCCLP supports SB 877 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.



Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities  
of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com)

**SB-877**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:07:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elena Cabatu	Testifying for East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept this testimony in support of SB877 on behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

**SB-877**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 4:00:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

More Advanced Life Support ambulances on the Big Island means quicker response times to critical patients in need. Thank you.

**SB-877**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:38:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair**  
**Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

**Benjamin Agdeppa**  
74-5075 Kumakani Street  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**Thursday, January 31st, 2019**

**Support for S.B. NO. 877 - Appropriation of Funding for Life Support Ambulances for Makalei and Puna**

Aloha Senators, My name is Benjamin Agdeppa, I am a lifelong resident of Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii. I fully support S.B. NO. 877, which would appropriate funding for Life Support Ambulances for Puna and Makalei.

As a personal witness, who has rode along with the men and women of the Hawaii Fire Department from the Kailua-Kona Fire Station in the past, I have seen the true need for another ambulance in the North Kona district. Once, the unit from Kailua-Kona was dispatched, the next available ambulance is at least 10 minutes or more away in Keauhou and Captain Cook or far as North from the South Kohala and Waikoloa Fire Stations. Average travel time to the Kalaoa/Makalei area from Kailua-Kona was at least 10 minutes or more, depending on traffic and the time of the day. The same also goes for if someone was to personally drive to the Kona Community Hospital in Kealahou, travel time is greater 30 mins, in which in those times can ultimately lead someone losing their life. The need for frontline life support ambulance has grown substantially with not only the population growth of North Kona, but also the rise in tourism to Kona as well. And the same can be also said for the Puna district as well, as both areas of Hawaii Island have seen substantial growth and popularity over the last few years.

Providing funding for these two life support ambulances in Puna and Makalei would not only cutdown on ambulance response times and save lives for the Puna and Makalei area, but also save on the wear and tear of the ambulances units themselves and personnel that are also assigned to them.

I urge you to support S.B. NO. 877. Mahalo for considering my testimony in strong support for this measure.

**Mahalo,**

**Benjamin Agdeppa**

**SB-877**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 7:21:56 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: