



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1975, H.D. 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 10, 2020 Room Number: 229 9:30am

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown fiscal implications for the Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on H.B. 1975,
- 3 H.D. 1. This bill requires any county with a population greater than 500,000 that receives
- 4 funding pursuant to section 321-228, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to conduct an evaluation of the
- 5 finances and operations of the county's emergency medical services system. The only county
- 6 meeting the population criteria would be the City and County of Honolulu.
- 7 ACT 60 of the 2019 Legislature required a comprehensive review of the Hawaii Emergency
- 8 Medical Services (EMS) System. From October 14-18, 2019, the National Highway
- 9 Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducted a reassessment of the State EMS
- 10 System. The positive report made multiple recommendations to improve the system. Two of
- 11 the recommendations were: 1) Conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the entire (all four
- 12 counties) EMS System, and 2) Establish a sustainable source of funding for the EMS and trauma
- 13 systems.
- 14 EMS is an essential public health service for Hawaii's residents and visitors. A sustainably
- 15 funded EMS system is required to meet this goal. A comprehensive cost analysis of the entire

- 1 EMS system is necessary to understand EMS funding requirements and realities and answer
- 2 continuing EMS funding questions. DOH respectfully recommends a statewide EMS cost
- 3 analysis study.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.