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

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 11, 2020

Room Number: 329 - 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 This bill requires any county with a population greater than 500,000 that receives funding
- 4 pursuant to section 321-228, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to conduct an evaluation of the finances
- 5 and operations of the county's emergency medical services system. The only county meeting the
- 6 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 The DOH believes EMS is an essential public health service for Hawaii's residents and visitors.
- 15 A sustainably funded EMS system is required to meet this goal. A comprehensive cost analysis

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