



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**H.B. NO. 2236, H.D. 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

The Office of the Auditor takes **no position** on H.B. No. 2236, H.D. 1, and offers the following comments on Section 5 of the bill.

The bill requires the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the Emergency Medical Services Department of the City and County of Honolulu, a county agency operating under the oversight of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH).<sup>1</sup> We suggest the resources of our office, where possible, are best spent evaluating state programs and state agencies. The Office of the City Auditor, City and County of Honolulu, likely is better positioned to audit City and County of Honolulu agencies, such as the Emergency Medical Services Department.

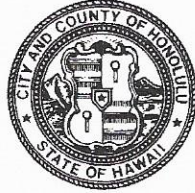
We additionally note some of the work called for by the bill—specifically, recommending improvements “based on the evolving needs and efficiency of emergency medical services” and determining whether DOH should seek out public-private partnerships—are beyond our expertise and would likely require us to retain an expert consultant to assist in performing the work. We believe HRS § 321-224(a)(4) requires the DOH to collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation of the State comprehensive emergency medical services system, and HRS § 321-230 allows DOH to contract for technical assistance and consultation. As the bill currently requires DOH to conduct both a study of the state emergency medical system workforce and a comprehensive cost analysis of the entire state emergency medical system, we suggest DOH is better suited to contract for this work.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to H.B. No. 2236, H.D. 1.

<sup>1</sup> The Department of Health is charged with the administration of the State's Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services system. HRS § 321-221. We understand emergency medical services are delivered through contracts with the Hawai'i County Fire Department, American Medical Response on Maui and Kaua'i, and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Medical Services.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.  
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 21, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, #308  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB2236, HD1 Relating to Emergency Medical Services  
Comments**

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department manages both the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Ocean Safety Lifeguard Services Divisions (OSD) for the City and County of Honolulu.

The Department participated in the State of Hawaii Reassessment of the Emergency Medical Services System from October 14 – 18, 2019 conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Department is actively engaged with the State of Hawaii Department of Health on implementing the recommendations of the system evaluation.

The Department concurs with the following recommendations from the report in relation to this bill:

1. **REGULATION AND POLICY**

Each State should embody comprehensive enabling legislation, regulations, and operational policies and procedures to provide an effective Statewide system of emergency medical and trauma care and should:

- Require comprehensive EMS system planning;
- Establish a sustainable source of funding for the EMS and trauma system.

2. **HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION**

Each State should ensure that its EMS system has essential trained and certified/licensed persons to perform required tasks. These personnel include: first responders (e.g. police and fire), communications specialists, physicians, nurses, hospital administrators, and planners. Each State should provide a comprehensive Statewide plan for assuring a stable EMS workforce including consistent EMS training and recruitment/retention programs with effective local and regional support. The State agency should:

- Conduct a comprehensive Statewide workforce study reviewing the entire EMS System, the status of the workforce and identify any gaps by county.

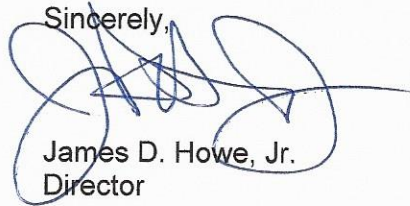
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Finance  
February 21, 2020  
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- Conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the entire EMS System. Based on this analysis revise the system to include looking at identification of centralized purchasing and other possible cost-saving measures.
- Develop a five-year strategic plan using the results from the work force and cost analysis studies.

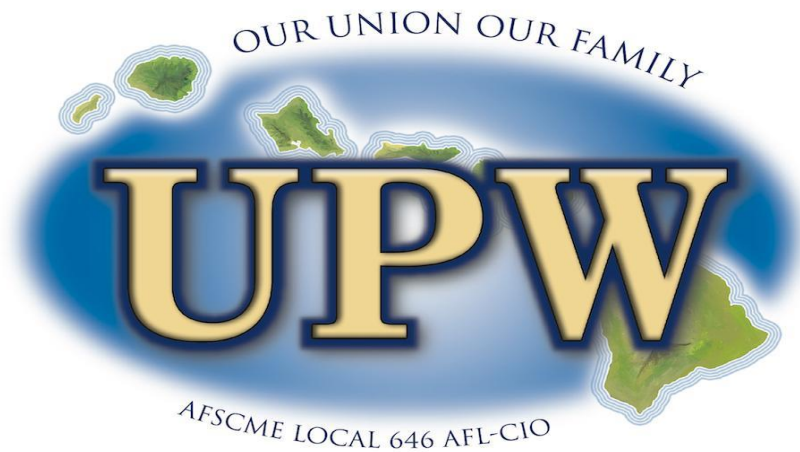
The Department has identified that the funding for the current level of services is critical to the continued medical well-being of the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the issue of major importance to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James D. Howe, Jr.", written over a circular stamp or seal.

James D. Howe, Jr.  
Director



House of Representatives  
The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020

Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2020  
Time of Hearing: 1:30 P.M.  
Place of Hearing: Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2236, HD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 13,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and four counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members in the private sector.

HB2236, HD1 requires and appropriate funds for the department of health to conduct comprehensive workforce and cost analysis reviews with federal partners to improve efficiency, quality and cost-effectiveness. It also requires a management audit of the emergency medical services of the city and county of Honolulu. An appropriation is made for collective bargaining increases and other current expenses. The UPW supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.





STATE OF HAWAII  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2236, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 21, 2020

Room Number: 308 1:30pm

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill appropriates funds for Department of Health (DOH) to  
2 conduct comprehensive workforce and cost analysis reviews to improve the efficiency,  
3 quality, and cost effectiveness. Appropriates funds for collective bargaining increases and  
4 other current expenses. The measure appropriates:

- 5 1. \$25,000 for the workforce study;
- 6 2. \$100,000 for comprehensive cost analysis to improve the efficiency, quality, and cost  
7 effectiveness of Hawaii's Statewide EMS program;
- 8 3. \$15,776,780 for collective bargaining; and
- 9 4. \$3,997,494 for other current expenses.

10 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports H.B. 2236, H.D. 1. The  
11 Department takes no position on Section 5 on page 4 of this measure. In ACT 60 (2019) the  
12 Legislature required a comprehensive review of the Hawaii EMS System. From October 14-18,  
13 2019, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducted a  
14 reassessment of the State EMS System. The positive report made multiple recommendations to  
15 improve the system. This bill addresses three recommendations from the report: 1) Conduct a  
16 comprehensive Statewide workforce study reviewing the entire EMS System, the status of the

1 workforce and identify any gaps by county, 2) Conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the  
2 entire EMS System. Based on this analysis, revise the system to include looking at identification  
3 of centralized purchasing and other possible cost-saving measures, and 3) Establish a sustainable  
4 source of funding for the EMS and trauma system.

5 This measure directs the Department to conduct a comprehensive statewide workforce study of  
6 the entire state emergency medical system to identify strengths and issues and provide  
7 recommendations to increase the emergency medical technician and paramedic workforce . The  
8 results will be used to describe Hawaii's pre-hospital workforce, provide valuable information  
9 for training priorities, and to ensure an adequate supply of care providers.

10 This measure also directs the Department to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the entire  
11 state EMS system to identify strengths and any issues with the system and provide  
12 recommendations to improve the economic function of the system. The comprehensive cost  
13 analysis study is necessary to understand funding requirements and realities and answer  
14 continuing questions about system cost.

15 The legislature appropriated funds to continue the operation of the comprehensive statewide  
16 EMS services for FY 2020. H.B. 2236, H.D. 1, appropriates funding for FY 2021.

17 Passage of H.B. 2236, H.D. 1, is critical for the continuation of life saving emergency medical  
18 services at the current level. If the funds are not provided to meet required collective bargaining  
19 increases and other current expenses, a reduction in personnel and services would be necessary  
20 to remain within funding limits.

21 **Offered Amendments:** The DOH respectfully requests the legislature's consideration of

- 1 additional time to complete a comprehensive state emergency medical system workforce and
- 2 cost analysis and report of findings.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.