

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

WRITTEN
ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 3091, S.D. 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 12, 2020

Room Number: Capitol Auditorium 9a

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of S.B.3091,
- 3 S.D. 1, and offers comments.
- 4 DOH recommends the minimum training requirement for Emergency Medical Technician –
- 5 Basic (EMT-B) licensure be a valid and current National Registry of Emergency Medical
- 6 Technicians (NREMT) certificate. DOH defers additional licensing requirements to Hawaii
- 7 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Hawaii Medical Board.
- 8 DOH recommends and supports there be no location or employer restriction for holding a valid
- 9 EMT-B or paramedic license in the State of Hawaii. This would be similar to other health care
- 10 professional licensing.
- 11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Health
Thursday, March 12, 2020
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Capitol Auditorium**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 3091, S.D. 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to enable the Board to certify emergency medical technicians other than emergency ambulance services.

The Board notes that S.D. 1 removes reference to “ambulance” from Hawaii Revised Statutes sections 453-31 and 453-32. In doing so, this measure allows emergency medical service personnel to work in any setting, and not only on ambulances. In addition, S.D. 1 in no way limits certain professionals such as firefighters, ocean safety lifeguards, or police officers from obtaining an emergency medical technician certificate or higher levels of certification by the Board, so long as they meet the specific requirements for certification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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LATE

March 11, 2020

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 402
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 3091, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 3091, SD 1, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical responders other than emergency ambulance personnel, with the following revisions:

On page 2, line 19 and page 3, line 15, add the underlined language below:

§453-32 Certification of emergency [ambulance] personnel. The Hawaii medical board shall certify individuals as qualified in emergency medical services upon application therefor; provided that the applicant for certification:

(1) Holds a certificate from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), has satisfactorily passed a course of training in emergency medical services for emergency services personnel which shall be based on the national curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation and approved by the board, and meets other standards and qualifications, including passage of an examination, set by the Hawaii medical board pertinent to the practice of emergency medical services in Hawaii. Individuals who satisfactorily pass the course of training from the NREMT in emergency medical services for emergency services personnel shall be deemed to have met the educational requirements;

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
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March 11, 2020

This revision will allow fire fighters and lifeguards who currently hold a certificate from the NREMT in EMS to be eligible for a State of Hawaii (State) license under this statute. It would also allow future fire fighters and lifeguards who become certified to the NREMT in EMS to have met the educational requirements. Without this revision, current and future fire fighters and lifeguards would be required to complete intravenous, defibrillation, and an additional 96-hour ride time training, which is not the current practice for EMS personnel who are not employed by an ambulance.

On page 3, line 14, add the following underlined language:

The board shall directly review the credentials of applicants and administer examinations required. Certification under this section shall be a prerequisite to the practice of emergency medical services as an employee of an emergency ambulance service.

This revision would keep the mandate that only Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) working on an ambulance must possess a State license. For all others, such as fire fighters and lifeguards, the State license would be an available option.

County and State fire departments are an integral component of Hawaii's EMS system. County and State fire departments are expected to correspond and are dispatched by Hawaii's E-911 system to provide emergency medical care. In addition, the Revised Charter of the City and County Honolulu mandates the HFD to "provide emergency medical care."

SB 3091, SD 1 will allow the State to have a degree of oversight regarding training and performance by county and State fire department EMTs. In addition, passage of SB 3091, SD1 will supply the State with approximately 1,400 additional licensed EMTs in the event of a mass disaster.

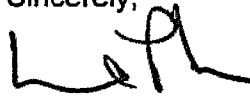
Approximately 80% of the HFD's 1,100 fire fighters are certified by the NREMT. Of the 58,000 incidents the HFD responded to in 2019, 69% were EMS-related. Unsuccessful passage of SB 3091, SD 1 would result in a substantial downgrade in the level of care provided by county and State fire department EMTs and negatively impact the outcomes of thousands of EMS patients.

The SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of SB 3091, SD 1 with the recommended revisions.

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
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March 11, 2020

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Neves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/GL:cn



KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

ROBERT F. WESTERMAN
FIRE CHIEF

Testimony of Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief, Kaua'i Fire Department

Before the
Committee on Health
March 12, 2020; 9:00 am
Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
Senate Bill 3091, Senate Draft 1
Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Honorable Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The State Fire Council (SFC) and the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) **support** SB 3091, SD 1, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are not employed by an emergency ambulance service.

The SFC recommends the following revision by adding the underlined below:

§453-32 Certification of emergency ambulance personnel. The Hawai'i medical board shall certify individuals as qualified in emergency medical services upon application therefor; provided that the applicant for certification:

(1) Holds a certificate from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), has satisfactorily passed a course of training in emergency medical services for emergency services personnel which shall be based on the national curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation and approved by the board, and meets other standards and qualifications, including passage of an examination, set by the Hawai'i medical board pertinent to the practice of emergency medical services in Hawai'i. Individuals who satisfactorily pass the course of training from the NREMT in emergency medical services for emergency services personnel shall be deemed to have met the educational requirements;

The first revision will replace the word "ambulance" that was deleted previously by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health because it was requested by the SFC. The SFC was subsequently advised to replace the word "ambulance" to retain the requirement for ambulance personnel to be licensed by this section. The other revision will allow fire fighters and lifeguards who currently hold a certificate from the NREMT in emergency medical services to be eligible for a State license under this statute. It would also allow future fire fighters and lifeguards who become certified to the NREMT in emergency medical services to have met the educational requirements. Without this revision current and future fire fighters and lifeguards would be required to complete intravenous, defibrillation and an additional 96-



hour ride time training, which is not the current practice for emergency medical services personnel who are not employed by an ambulance.

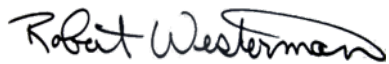
County and state fire departments are an integral component of Hawai'i's EMS system. County and state fire departments are expected to co-respond and are dispatched by Hawai'i's E-911 system to provide emergency medical care. In addition, the Revised Charter of the City and County Honolulu mandates the HFD to "provide emergency medical care."

SB 3091, SD 1 will allow the state to have a degree of oversight regarding training and performance by county and state fire department EMTs. In addition, passage of SB 3091, SD1 will supply the state with approximately 1,400 additional licensed EMTs in the event of a mass disaster.

Approximately 80% of the HFD's 1,100 fire fighters are certified by the National Registry of EMTs. Of the 58,000 incidents the HFD responded to in 2019, 69% were EMS-related. Unsuccessful passage of SB 3091, SD 1 would result in a substantial downgrade in the level of care provided by county and state fire department EMTs and negatively impact the outcomes of thousands of EMS patients.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 3091, SD 1, with the suggested revision.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

RFW/st

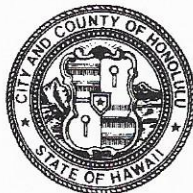


HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 12, 2020

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
And Members
Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
Capitol Auditorium
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB3091 SD1 Relating to Emergency Services
Comments

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

SB3091 SD1 is consistent with the recommendations of the 2019 Reassessment of Hawaii's Emergency Medical Services System by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The Department has the following comments:

The Department agrees that the provision of EMS services at the EMT level should be licensed by the State of Hawaii to ensure the proper practice of pre-hospital emergency medicine at the entry point into the EMS system.

The Department is concerned that the language in the SD1, S453-31 will require all employees who provide emergency medical services employed by the Department must have NREMT certification and be licensed by the State of Hawaii.

It is unclear to the Department if the definition of the "practice of any emergency medical services" would include all water safety officers who are employed by the Department's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division.

A requirement to include all water safety officers would place a significant burden on the Department. Adequate time would be required to allow the Department to meet both the required training included in the statute and the cost of premium payments required by the BU-14 CBA for water safety officers who have obtained the NREMT certification.

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

Sincerely,

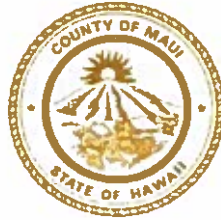
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Howe, Jr.", written over a circular stamp or seal.

James D. Howe, Jr.
Director

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

LATE

March 12, 2020

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 402
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno,

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 3091, Senate Draft (SD) 1, Relating to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

I am David Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and MFD support SB 3091, SD 1, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are not employed by an emergency ambulance service.

The SFC recommends the following revisions by adding the underlined below:

§ 453-32 Certification of emergency ambulance personnel. The Hawaii medical board shall certify individuals as qualified in emergency medical services upon application therefore; provided that the applicant for certification:

- (1) Hold a certificate from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), has satisfactorily passed a course of training in emergency medical services for emergency service personnel which shall be based on the national curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation and approved by the board, and meets other standards and qualifications, including passage of an examination, set by the Hawaii medical board pertinent to the practice of emergency medical services in Hawaii. Individuals who satisfactorily pass the course of training from the NREMT in emergency medical services personnel shall be deemed to have met the educational requirements;

The first revision will replace the word “ambulance” that was deleted previously by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health because it was requested by the SFC. The SFC was subsequently advised to replace the word “ambulance” to retain the requirement for ambulance personnel to be licensed by this section. The other revision will allow firefighters and lifeguards who currently hold a certificate from NREMT in emergency medical services to be eligible for a State license under this statute. It would also allow future fighters and lifeguards who

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair

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March 10, 2020

become certified on the NREMT in emergency medical services to have met the educational requirements. Without this revision current and future firefighters and lifeguards would be required to complete intravenous, defibrillation and an additional 96-hour ride time training, which is not the current practice for emergency medical services personnel who are not employed by an ambulance.

County and state fire departments are an integral component of Hawaii's EMS system. County and state fire departments are expected to co-respond and are dispatched by Hawaii's E-911 system to provide emergency medical care. In addition, the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu mandates the HFD to "provide emergency medical care."

SB 3091, SD 1 will allow the state to have a degree of oversight regarding training and performance by county and state fire department EMTs. In addition, passage of SB 3091, SD 1 will supply the state with approximately 1,400 additional licensed EMTs in the event of a mass disaster.

Approximately 80% of HFD's 1,100 firefighters are certified by the National Registry of EMTs. Of the 58,000 incidents the HFD responded to in 2019, 69% were EMS-related. Unsuccessful passage of SB 3091, SD 1 would result in a substantial downgrade in the level of care provided by county and state fire department EMTs and negatively impact the outcomes of thousands of EMT patients.

The SFC and MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 3091, SD 1, with the suggested revision.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrgoers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE

Fire Chief

LATE

Comments re: SB 3091

Senators and Representatives:

I provide these comments on my own, and do not represent any agency or other entity. I am, however, an EMS provider with (28) years of experience.

I believe this bill may be in part the result of the NHTSA review in October that recognized that a true EMS 'system' needs to be more inclusive of assets beyond just ambulances. I certainly agree with that; in fact credentialing of **Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs)** and **Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs)** should be a high priority. There is, in fact, a greater need for licensing EMDs and EMRs than for changing the credentials for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

I do support greater acknowledgement of the benefit of using **EMTs** and Paramedics outside of an ambulance setting, whether in first response apparatus, EMS special response units, helicopter and marine EMS, etc. I do, however, have some **notable concerns** with this bill.

Whereas the original intent may have been to allow for (2) types of credentialing of EMTs (i.e. one for non-transport and another for transport-capable agencies) it appears that the current version and departmental comments (e.g. DOH, DCCA) indicate that only (1) lesser level of EMT would be certified by the State of Hawaii; thus in its current form this bill appears to now:

- Downgrade Hawaii's current state EMTs and eliminate training and scope of practice in 'ALS-assist' skills
- Drastically reduce the breadth and length of the state's EMT program, slashing internship hours
- De-legitimize the KapCC EMT program, this after considerable work and revision has been done on that curriculum
- Reduce the level of EMT preparedness for fieldwork that EMS services and paramedics have come to expect from graduates/candidates
- Increase demands on paramedics who would now be solely capable of performing skills previously in the Hawaii EMT scope (e.g. IVs, ECG)

I know that some EMS stakeholders monitoring the bill have been comforted by the hope that EMS provider agencies might deal with the discrepancy through hiring practices, e.g. transport-capable agencies requiring KapCC's full suite of EMT training, whereas non-transport agencies might be satisfied with basic NREMTs.

The concern remains, however, that if there is NO statutory requirement for a higher level of training and preparedness, then it may be anybody's guess how our system in Hawaii will evolve. It certainly is possible that some -or even all- EMS provider agencies might simply downgrade to basic NREMTs. We have some highly qualified 'career EMTs' in our state, and whether new or seasoned, Hawaii EMT partners operate at a higher level than 'stock' basic nationally registered EMTs.

--David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

SB 3091 SD1 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 09:00 am

In Support with amendments

LATE

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee on Health

I am in support of most of SB3091 SD1 with one correction and one addition.

1. The SD 1 version of SB3091 removes the word “ambulance” from HRS 453-31 and 453-32. This is a good thing, with the exception of page 3, line 14 of the bill (SB3091 SD1), where we need to leave the word “ambulance” in. If we do not leave “ambulance” in that **one** spot, it would create an inadvertent mandate that ALL emergency service personnel must be licensed as EMT’s.
2. The only training/educational requirement for basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) licensure should be a valid and current National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certificate. This is consistent with EMS agencies across the nation and consistent with DOH’s testimony in the last hearing.

The intent of the bill was to continue to ensure those who work on an ambulance *must* have a state EMT license, while creating an option for other first responders.

The recommendation comes from the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) after reviewing our state EMS system. All emergency medical responders caring for a patient should be licensed. In our current situation, highly trained, nationally certified but non licensed first responders are being dispatched by 911 to provide emergency medical care. These responders are not untrained, just non-licensed.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Char MD FACEP, FAAEM
EMS and Emergency Physician

LATE

SB-3091-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:46:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew McHugh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1. am an EMS educator that currently teaches at an EMT training program in Sacramento, CA. I have been teaching EMTs and First Responders for the past 20 years with experience teaching at KCC in Hawaii and 15 years in California at Cosumnes River College. I have a great deal of experience working with the NREMT and am very knowledgeable in their standards and have participated in their EMT exam writing committees. I have been a paramedic for the past 22 years in California and Hawaii. I am a certified Critical Care paramedic and have worked on the Hawaiian Air Ambulance services and on the Maui Medical Helicopter. The current Bill that allows NREMT cardholders to acquire Hawaii EMT licenses is of great concern. The current national EMT standard hours for EMT courses less than 190 hours and do not match the quality or quantity of Education for EMT currently in Hawaii under KCC. The current Hawaii EMT training is over 346 hours or twice as much as most mainland or NREMT EMT course requirements. EMT courses that only meet the NREMT EMT training standard **do not** teach V placement, IV assist, EKG interpretation, manual defibrillation, 12 lead setup, or more advanced patient care.

I strongly disagree with the current state bill that allows people with just the minimum national standard and only possession of an NREMT card to become state-licensed EMT and be allowed to work on Advanced Life Support Ambulances in the state of Hawaii. I have trained EMTs in both in California and in Hawaii and feel this subpar standard will degrade the high quality of EMS care that we provide to our ohana in our island home. The state of Hawaii to allow less trained individuals to become licensed EMTs and allow them to work on Advanced Life Support Ambulances to provide lifesaving care to people of our island home is highly concerning. I strongly encourage the legislature to NOT allow this bill to proceed to law. It will weaken our island's EMS system.

Mahlo for your time.

Matthew McHugh

Hawaii MICT 1550

916-412-0981

matt@mchughhome.net

Chair Mizuno:

3/12/20

Speedy Bailey - AMR Regional Director

LATE

- ① Support DOT/NHTSA recommendations
- ② Support 3 tiered EMS system
- ③ Support recognition of Fire First Responders
- ④ Concerned that 'All EMS are not created equally'

LATE

initial language of 3091 - creates
one category of EMT which
upgrades Fire EMTs
downgrades ~~EMTs~~ EMS Ambulance
EMT's

- ⑤ Support collaborative discussion of EMS stakeholders