

**Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

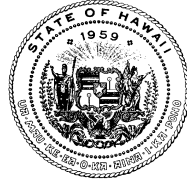
My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical (Board). The Board offers comments on this bill.

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

The Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 13, 2020. In the meantime, the Board offers the following comments regarding this bill: Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 16-85-54 sets forth the current requirements for certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). HAR section 16-85-54 requires, among other things, that an EMT applicant provide evidence of: (1) completion of an EMT program; (2) completion of didactic training in cardiac defibrillation and IV access from a state-approved EMT program; (3) completion of 96 hours of clinical training obtained through a Board-approved agency; (4) passage of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT examination; and (5) current certification as an EMT with the NREMT.

If enacted, this bill would remove the requirements that an EMT applicant provide evidence of successful completion of didactic training in cardiac defibrillation and IV access from a state-approved EMT program, as well as completion of 96 hours of clinical training obtained through a Board-approved agency. By removing these requirements, the Board would not be able to confirm whether the EMT: (1) received this appropriate training; and (2) can perform the general functions of an EMT as demarcated in HAR section 16-85-59, which states: "(a) The scope of practice of an EMT shall be restricted to the performance of basic emergency medical care and transportation of patients, cardiac defibrillation, and IV access."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to S.B.3091**  
**RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 11, 2020                      Room Number: 229

1    **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health

2    **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health opposes the amendment of chapter 453 in  
3    its current form. Currently the Hawaii Medical Board licenses Emergency Medical Technicians  
4    (EMTs) and Paramedics. One of the prerequisites to Hawaii licensure is active National Registry  
5    Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) certification. Under the NREMT, first responders  
6    may apply for National Emergency Medical Responder certification, but this is not equivalent to  
7    a license issued by the Hawaii Medical Board or the Department of Commerce and Consumer  
8    Affairs Professional and Vocational Licensing Division.

9    Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics staffing ambulances must be licensed  
10   through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). There is a difference in  
11   requirements for EMS personnel staffing ambulances compared to medical first response  
12   personnel (fire and ocean safety). Currently, many first response personnel hold National  
13   Registry Certification but are unlicensed in the State. The potential liability for these medical  
14   first responder entities, the individuals, and even the State is significant.

1 The 2019 Reassessment of Hawaii's Emergency Medical Services conducted by the National  
2 Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) stated: "It should be a priority to establish  
3 rules that require licensure of all EMS personnel, to include those providing care on ambulances,  
4 rescue, ocean safety, fire first response, special event, or any other entity providing EMS care."

5 The report continues:

6 "Part of the confusion that perpetuates the provision of EMS care by unlicensed personnel is the  
7 inaccurate idea that certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians  
8 (NREMT) is a license to practice. The NREMT certification is an attestation that an individual  
9 has passed a minimum competency exam or submitted proof of a minimum amount of  
10 continuing education credits biennially. It is not a license to practice in Hawaii or any other  
11 State."

12 The State should only allow licensed EMT personnel to provide medical care regardless of  
13 location --ambulance or non-ambulance health care setting under their State issued EMT license.  
14 Creation of transport and non-transport EMTs as the bill suggests only gives the current system a  
15 new name codifying a confusing 2-tiered system.

16 All qualified applicants for EMS licensure (EMT and Paramedic) should be licensed irrespective  
17 of whether they are employed by an ambulance provider or other agency.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI  
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dliir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dliir.director@hawaii.gov)

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,  
and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 214  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 3091 Relating to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support SB 3091, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are not employed by an emergency ambulance service.

County and state fire departments are an integral component of the Hawaii's EMS system. County and state fire departments are expected to correspond and are being dispatched by Hawaii's 911 system to provide emergency medical care. The Revised Charter of the City and County Honolulu mandates the HFD to "provide emergency medical care."

SB 3091 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 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 HFD's 58,000 incidents for 2019, 69% were EMS-related. Unsuccessful passage of SB 3091 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 HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 3091.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Page 2  
February 10, 2020

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or [lrogers@honolulu.gov](mailto:lrogers@honolulu.gov).

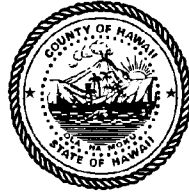
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.P.N.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/GL:cn

**Harry Kim**  
Mayor



**Darren J. Rosario**  
Fire Chief

**Lance S. Uchida**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,  
and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Room 214  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

**Subject: S.B. 3091, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 229**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Vice Chairman of the Hawai'i State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD strongly supports SB 3091, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are not employed by an emergency ambulance service.

The HCFD is the only County Fire Based EMS provider in the State and is not impacted by the current language in the existing rules governing certification of emergency medical technicians of employees not employed by and emergency ambulance service. However, The HCFD is in strong support of this bill to change the language to provide for such certification to our peer departments and public safety organizations throughout the State. Our peers provide the base layer within an effective Emergency Medical System.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Fire Department, I support the written testimony being submitted by State Fire Council Chair Manuel Neves in its entirety.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or [darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov) should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3091.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren J. Rosario".

DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief





**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  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
February 11, 2020; 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
Senate Bill 3091  
Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Honorable Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

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

County and State fire departments (FD) are an integral component of the Hawai'i's emergency medical services (EMS) system. County and State FD's are expected to co-respond and are being dispatched by Hawai'i's 911 system, to provide emergency medical care. It is written into the city charter for Honolulu Fire, so it is formally recognized that fire is inextricably linked with EMS through the language of "provide emergency medical care".

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

Approximately eighty percent of the HFD's 1,100 fire fighters are certified by the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT). Sixty-five to seventy percent of the HFD's 58,000 incidents for 2019 were EMS related. Unsuccessful passage of SB 3091 would result in a substantial downgrade in the level of care provided by County and State FD EMTs and would 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.

[www.kauai.gov](http://www.kauai.gov)

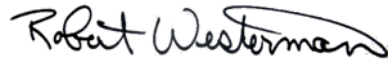
4444 Rice Street Suite 315 • Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766 • (808) 241-4980 (b) • (808) 241-6508 (f)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer



The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Page 2  
February 10, 2020

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or [lrogers@honolulu.gov](mailto:lrogers@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



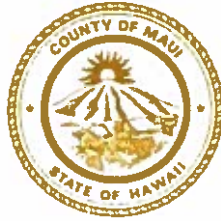
Robert F. Westerman  
Fire Chief

RFW/LR:st





**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

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,  
and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 214  
Honolulu, HI 967813

Dear Chair Nishihara,

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill (SB) 3091 Relating to Emergency Medical Services**

I am David C. 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, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are not employed by an emergency ambulance service.

County and State fire departments (FD) are an integral component of the Hawaii's emergency medical services (EMS) system. County and State FDs are expected to co-respond and are being dispatched by Hawaii's 911 system, to provide emergency medical care. If it is written into the city charter for Honolulu Fire, so it is formally recognized that fire is inextricably linked with EMS through the language of "provide emergency medical care."

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

Approximately eighty percent of the HFD's 1,100 fire fighters are certified by the National Registry of EMT's (NREMT). Sixty-five to seventy percent of the HFD's 58,000 incidents for 2019 were EMS related. Unsuccessful passage of SB 3091 would result in a substantial downgrade in the level of care provided by County and State FD EMTs and would negatively impact the outcomes of thousands of EMS patients.

The SFC and MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 3091.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Page 2

February 7, 2020

The SFC and MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 3091.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or [lrogers@honolulu.gov](mailto:lrogers@honolulu.gov).

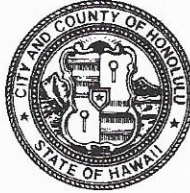
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. C. Thyne".

DAVID C. THYNE  
Fire Chief

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



KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.  
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, #229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB3091 Relating to Emergency Medical Services  
In Support

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 is in support of this measure.

The Department supports the intent of SB3091 as it is consistent with the recommendations of the National Emergency Services System review completed by the National Highway Transportation System Administration (NHTSA) report from 2019.

The Department has the following comments:

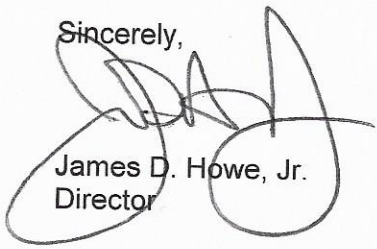
The Department agrees that the provision of EMS services at the EMT level should be licensed by the State of Hawaii to ensure the proper practice of pre-hospital emergency medicine at the entry point into the EMS system.

The Department has not had the opportunity to fully evaluate the financial and legal implications of the proposed legislation.

The Department requests the opportunity to fully evaluate the proposed legislation on the issues of workforce development and employee training and certification standards.

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

Sincerely,

  
James D. Howe, Jr.  
Director

**SB-3091**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 7:12:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As an NREMT registered medical technician and Fire Fighter for over 30

years in Hawaii, it is absolutely necessary for fire personnel to respond and treat patients within their scope of certification for the best interest of the public.

It is a given fact, that fire fighters will be on scene of any 911 call for assistance prior to an ambulance and or paramedic in almost 100 percent of the time.

It is absurd to think that registered EMT's (Nationally Registered) that don't work for a transport company, unit or service cannot render care or are recognized, or that they need to be state licensed is wrong and not in the best interest of public safety.

the only person that matters if we are recognized are the patients themselves.

I am in complete support of this outdated bill 100%

**SB-3091**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 7:28:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-3091**

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:24:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments: