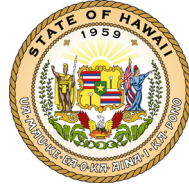


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 541, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 2, Relating to Health

I am Steven Goble, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 541, HD 1, SD 2, which requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to create an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians (EMT) who are certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical responders (EMR) but do not provide ambulance services.

Approximately 1,400 EMTs in Hawaii are currently certified by the National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), which is the standard for educational requirements in most states. Over 400,000 individuals are certified by the NREMT.

State EMT licensure of fire fighters and lifeguards certified as EMTs should more closely align to the appropriate level of certification to achieve consistency with national standards. Testimony in other similar proposed legislative bills that suggested NREMT-certified fire fighters and lifeguards be licensed by the State as EMRs was inconsistent with NREMT certification level and did not match the education standards or the scope of practice models for EMRs and EMTs as defined by the NREMT.

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
April 7, 2021

The level of care provided by fire fighters and lifeguards who are EMT-certified in the prehospital setting currently exceeds the EMR level and includes the majority of the EMT scope of practice. Furthermore, fire fighters and lifeguards who are EMT-certified do participate in the transport of patients (as outlined in the NREMT's description of an EMT), as they regularly assist in the ambulance during the transport of critical patients en route to the hospital.

This is a substantial, valuable service that results in no additional direct cost to the recipient and is transparent to the public. Without the passage of HB 541, HD 1, SD 2, a significant downgrade in the level of care provided by county and state fire department EMTs would result and negatively impact the outcome of thousands of emergency medical services patients. The language in HB 541, HD 1, SD 2 will not adversely affect the level of care or standard of practice provided by certified EMTs who work on an ambulance.

Counterintuitively, the state of Hawaii offers direct reciprocity for paramedics and advanced EMTs, but not at the EMT level. The SFC welcomes the creation of a separate level of EMT licensure to recognize and license individuals who have met NREMT requirements for EMT certification, but do not satisfy the Hawaii requirement for an ambulance transport EMT.

The SFC urges the committee's approval of HB 541, HD 1, SD 2 to enable the DCCA to create an additional licensure category for EMTs who are certified at a higher practice level than EMRs but do not provide ambulance services.

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

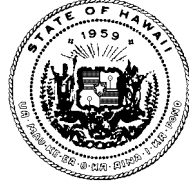
Sincerely,

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

STEVEN GOBLE
Vice Chair

SG/GL:st

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 7, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 541 HD1 SD1 Proposed SD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Hearing: April 9, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent and supports the SD1, which is now Part I of the Proposed SD2.

DHS does not provide comment on Part II of the Proposed SD2.

PURPOSE: The proposed SD2 establishes a working group within the department of health to identify gaps in services; coordinate funding sources; and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness. Makes an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the state comprehensive emergency medical system for expenses related to collective bargaining and other current expenses. Requires the department of commerce and consumer affairs to create a licensure category for emergency medical technicians who have received certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians at a higher level of practice than emergency medical responders but who do not provide emergency ambulance services. (Proposed SD2)

DHS provides comments on Part I of the Proposed SD2. We recognize the need to better integrate the broad array of behavioral health services and services for individuals facing homelessness. The workgroup will enable the various stakeholders to build on efforts

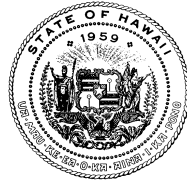
April 7, 2021

Page 2

underway such as those by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to align homelessness funding and services. The group can also review the different reimbursement models which will lay the foundation for more efficient use of resources.

Currently, Med-QUEST Division (MQD) works closely with the Department of Health Behavioral Health administration to promote coordination and improved integration. For example, recent contracts mandate working with Hawaii CARES. Improved integration for behavioral health services is a key strategic initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB541 SD2 PROPOSED
RELATING TO HEALH.**

SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 9, 2021 Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Part I and Part II. DOH
2 takes no position on Part III and defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
3 for the position of the Executive Branch.

4 Part I establishes a working group to address community needs relating to mental health and
5 substance abuse, as it affects homelessness. This important conversation must continue as
6 Hawaii's economic and social recovery proceeds.

7 Part II fulfills financial obligations already incurred by the State of Hawaii relating to the
8 emergency medical services system. Expenses for this current fiscal year for collective
9 bargaining and other current expenses, specifically three new ambulance units authorized by the
10 Legislature in 2018, are due and the department's budget resources are insufficient. An
11 additional \$4,780,880.50 is required to assure continuity of emergency medical services in all
12 counties (see table below for breakdown).

13 One-year funding for these expenses was provided in the 2019 legislative session and again in
14 the 2020 session. Due to extenuating circumstances including the pandemic, DOH was unable to
15 include these expenses in the base budget, which is the usual and customary procedure. As a
16 result, an appropriation for this current fiscal year of approximately \$4.8M is requested to fund
17 services until June 30, 2021.

1 Without this appropriation, counties are likely to implement contingency service reduction plans
2 requested by DOH in late 2019, which may result in delayed response times for ambulances and
3 emergency medical personnel.

EMSIPSB EA REQUEST Detail	5% Of CB Restricted	OCE	Totals
COUNTY			
Hawaii	\$ 221,772.70	\$ 371,091.00	\$ 592,863.70
Kauai	\$ 73,824.10	\$ 828,888.00	\$ 902,712.10
Maui	\$ 32,780.50	\$ 1,305,549.00	\$ 1,338,329.50
Oahu	\$ 455,009.20	\$ 1,491,966.00	\$ 1,946,975.20
Totals	\$ 783,386.50	\$ 3,997,494.00	\$ 4,780,880.50

4

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

6 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

7

**HB541 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

‘Apelila 9, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Lumi 211

The Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees offer **COMMENTS** on HB541 HD1 SD1, which would require the behavioral health working group within the Department of Health to identify gaps in services, coordinate funding sources, and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness, and adds an OHA representative to the working group.

OHA notes that Native Hawaiians may disproportionately face both housing insecurity and mental health challenges in Hawai‘i. For example, the 2017-2020 Point-in-Time counts indicated that in Honolulu County, 41% of the 7,496 individuals who experienced homelessness during this time identified as Native Hawaiian; meanwhile, American Community Survey data for 2019 indicated that Native Hawaiians made up only 19% of county residents overall.¹ In addition, Native Hawaiians suffer from alarming rates of negative mental health-associated risk factors and outcomes. For example:

- Native Hawaiian keiki are over-represented as victims of **abuse and neglect**.
- **Youth suicide ideation, attempt and death rates** are highest among Native Hawaiians.
- The Native Hawaiian female **self-harm** rate is 8.8% higher than their non-Native Hawaiian female peers.
- 20% of Native Hawaiian mothers ages 20 and younger experience **postpartum depression**, 5% more frequently than their non-Native Hawaiian peers.
- Native Hawaiian adults have the highest rate of **self-evaluating their overall mental and physical health as “not good.”**
- **Depressive Disorder** among Native Hawaiian kupuna is 13.4%, higher than the state average.

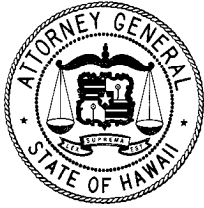
Accordingly, OHA appreciates the proposed working group’s role in addressing our behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness issues and challenges, which may disproportionately impact the Native Hawaiian community. OHA further appreciates being included as a member of the working group, which may help to ensure that the working group understands and addresses these challenges as well as their contributing factors and root causes.

¹ PRUITT, ANNA, AND BARILE, JACK, UNSHELTERED IN HONOLULU 2, 5 (2020), available at <https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/ohou/UnshelteredHNL-2020-compressed.pdf>.

Should the Committee choose to move this measure forward, OHA does respectfully request that the Committee amend the language on page 2, lines 19-20, to more appropriately reflect OHA's administrative structure, to read as follows:

“(11) The administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, or the administrator's designee;”

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 541, H.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Friday, April 9, 2021

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Michelle Nakata, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this measure.

The purpose of this bill is to: (1) amend Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, to modify the responsibilities of the working group established within the Department of Health to identify gaps in services, coordinate funding sources, and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness in addition to amending the composition of the working group, (2) make an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the state comprehensive emergency medical system for payroll and other current expenses, and (3) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to create a licensure category for emergency medical technicians who have received certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

This bill may be subject to constitutional challenge. Section 1 of this bill would require the working group to identify gaps in services and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness. The title of this bill is "RELATING TO HEALTH." Section 14 of article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides that "[e]ach law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." As presently described and set forth, homelessness

services are not appropriately described as relating to health. To avoid a potential constitutional challenge on this issue, we recommend that section 1 of the proposed S.D. 2, at page 1, lines 4-12, be amended to treat homelessness as a result of behavioral health or substance abuse issues instead of as a separate issue, and amend section 1(a) of Act 263 as follows:

“SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department of health a working group to evaluate current behavioral health care and related systems and identify ~~[steps that may be taken to promote effective integration to more effectively respond to and coordinate care for persons experiencing]~~ gaps in services, coordinate funding sources, and establish and identify outcome measures for persons experiencing behavioral health or substance abuse~~[,mental health]~~ conditions, and resultant consequences, including homelessness.”

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



LIONEL CAMARA JR.
ACTING FIRE CHIEF

SHELDON K. HAO
ACTING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 541, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD 2) Relating to Health

I am Lionel Camara Jr., Acting Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 541, HD 1, SD 2, which requires the State of Hawaii's (State) Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to create an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians (EMT) who are certified at a higher practice level than an emergency medical responder (EMR) and participate in the transport of patients as outlined in the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician's (NREMT) description of an EMT.

Over 400,000 individuals are EMT-certified by the NREMT nationwide. In Hawaii, approximately 1,400 EMTs, 832 of which are from the HFD, are currently certified by the NREMT, which is the standard for educational requirements in most states.

The current State EMT licensure must move towards aligning itself with national standards and the appropriate certification level. The level of care provided by the HFD fire fighters, who are EMT-certified in the prehospital setting, exceeds the current State EMR level and includes the majority of an EMT's scope of practice. Testimony in other similar, proposed legislative bills that suggested NREMT-certified fire fighters be licensed by the State as EMRs is inconsistent with the NREMT's EMT certification level, education standards, and scope of practice models.

HFD fire fighters do not satisfy the State's requirement as an ambulance transport EMT despite the fact that EMT-certified fire fighters participate in the transport of patients and regularly assist in the ambulance during the transport of critical patients en route to the hospital.

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
April 8, 2021

Assisting in ambulance transport is a substantial, valuable service that results in no additional direct cost to the recipient and is transparent to the public. Without the passage of HB 541, HD 1, SD 2, a significant downgrade in the level of care provided by City and County of Honolulu EMTs would negatively impact the outcome of thousands of emergency medical services patients. The language in HB 541, HD 1, SD 2 will not adversely affect the level of care or standard of practice provided by certified EMTs who work on an ambulance.

The HFD urges the committee's approval of HB 541, HD 1, SD 2 to enable the DCCA to create an additional licensure category for EMTs who are certified at a higher practice level than EMRs but do not provide ambulance services.

Should you have questions, please contact me at 723-7101 or lcamara1@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



LIONEL CAMARA JR.
Acting Fire Chief

LCJ:cy

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 4:41:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Jones	Testifying for Honolulu Fire Department	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of the proposed HB541 HD1 SD2.

Currently the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) licenses three levels of EMS personnel. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), EMT-Advanced, and EMT-Paramedic. The (2) higher levels of State licensure offer direct reciprocity for certification at the same level through the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT). At the lowest current level of licensure (EMT) there are additional requirements for instructional content and hours of clinical experience above and beyond what is required for NREMT certification.

To recognize the skills required of State licensed EMTs who work for an ambulance transport service I support the creation of a separate non-transport EMT license. This non-transport EMT license would align with the NREMT education and certification standards. This would bring all levels of EMS licensure in line with the National standards and curricula without impact the current provider and ambulance employer expectations.

The laws governing State licensure should be ethical and logical. They should ensure a minimum standard of education and competency that is justifiable and defensible. Licensure regulations should not be worded in such a way that a practicing professional is unable to utilize their knowledge, skills and license for the benefit of the public in all appropriate settings.

Please ensure that licensure regulations for all EMS professionals are ethical and in a logical in their makeup and application by passing House Bill 541 HD1 SD2.

Mahalo

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 9:51:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Rose	Testifying for MauiCounty Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of AMR Kauai and its employees including myself, we have all experienced the negative impact caused by COVID-19. As we all know, the negative impact due to COVID-19 is still ongoing and in effect as of today April 7th, 2021. Within these challenging times we have experienced a budget cut resulting in an entire ambulance to be placed out of service. This has led to a shortage of hours for our employees here at AMR Kaua'i. An entire ambulance placed out of service can be of harm for the rural community of Kaua'i and it's visitors. With one less ambulance supporting the 911 EMS system of Kaua'i, it leads to a detrimental impact for those who call 911 and need help.

Kaua'i is a rural community in the state of Hawaii and have longer response times to the patient including transport times to the hospital. Every second counts for patient survivability and outcomes. One less ambulance means one less response for whomever calls. With a lack of an ambulance within our community it will lead to great suffering in our community getting the proper medical treatment and help they need.

With the tourism returning and Hawaii's economy recovering we will be seeing a rapid increase of 911 medical calls. We already have been experiencing an increase in 911 medical calls because of the gradual return of tourism here on Kaua'i. It is not about our employees getting paid, but it is to staff our ambulances to provide the help and support our community including the visitors of Kaua'i. COVID-19 has impacted our entire state greatly, including the entire world. Many of us have families and need to support them. Some of us end up leaving our career and homes to do what is best for ourselves. This results in leaving the entire island and moving to the mainland where things are still yet uncertain.

I believe we all need to work together as a state to continue to serve our communities and visitors. We want the best for our families, friends, and communities. With this bill approval it will allow us all to live at ease knowing that our communities are safe.

Malama I Ke Ola. Life is Precious.

Thank you for your time

Chris Ajimura

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 12:58:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan McKnight	Testifying for AMR	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support Part II of this bill with regards to funding EMS throughout the State. Cutting EMS funding will cripple the response our ever growing communities so deserve.

Mahalo,

Ryan McKnight-

Paramedic AMR Kauai Operations



HB541 HD1 SD2 Contracts for Substance Abuse, Mental Health

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

- Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
- Friday, Apr. 9, 2021: 10:00: Videoconference

HSAC SUPPORTS HB541 PROPOSED CHANGES: SD2

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of over 30 substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

HSAC supports a work group to reform government contracting to be more efficient.

HSAC supports that the state retain evidenced based practices for treatment for substance use disorders and mental health disorders. Let's keep what works and then add to it with wrap around services.

A lot of work is needed here for such reform. Let's help to guide the State to remain focused on quality-of-care issues following evidenced-based practices and not succumb the allure of less costly, yet substandard services. We can stay the course for providing effective treatment during this unprecedented time of high anxiety, social isolation, and disruption to our healthcare system.

This work group can:

- Clarify payment goals and desired outcome measures by allowing time to have a thoughtful discussion needing input from providers and referrals sources because service objectives for rates and outcomes are complicated for something of this magnitude that has long term-impacts to community services.
- Ensure that evidenced best practices for treatment be kept such as residential and outpatient services with other wrap around services.
- Expand on helping the uninsured, who need the most help and at the same time could be better integrated with the underinsured Medicaid and Medicare. A discussion about adequate rates or braided rates with state funds could help. Maximize federal funds use where it is needed most – the most chronic conditions that need residential and step down programs.
- Ensure research is valid and reviewed.
- Added work group members to include Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition and other relevant members.

Payment reform is complicated and needs a great deal of discussion involving all aspects of those involved from government to providers to insurers to community.

Given the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic plaguing this country, it is crucial that Hawai'i is prepared to address the disastrous exacerbation of the expected wave of mental health and substance use crisis.

We respectfully ask that the Payment Reform work group's primary goal be to ensure that individuals with mental health or substance use disorders receive the best possible evidence-based care.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

COMMENTS FOR HB 541, HD1, Proposed SD2: RELATING TO HEALTH

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Friday, 4/9/21; 10:00 am; via videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **Comments on HB 541, HD1, SD2. We will comment on Part I** which establishes a working group within the Department of Health to identify gaps in services, coordinate funding sources, and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

We support the establishment of a working group to address the many issues involved to accomplish the goals of identifying gaps, coordinating funding and identifying outcome measures. The system to provide homelessness services is quite different from the mental health and substance abuse systems, although it may contain essential services for mental health and/or substance abuse issues for some participants. The working group has the opportunity for discussion with stakeholders regarding the potential needs and impacts of readjusting these systems. We urge that these discussions include what unintended consequences might happen, including any that might reduce the ability of non-profits, especially smaller non-profits, to provide their critical services. If a new system requires data to meet the needs of both DHS and DOH, and other uniform standards that may be onerous and inefficient for some programs, this may negatively affect the capability of organizations to respond to Requests for Proposals. These are critical issues that can be addressed by the working group. Care should be taken to increase capacity, not eliminate competition.

We strongly support the addition of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to the working group as well as a representative from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The Coordinator works closely with service providers across the state. He has intimate knowledge of the different needs of each island, how services are provided and what the gaps in services are. He promotes collaboration and works with the homeless coalitions on each island so can be a conduit for these services to provide input to the working group. Since a high percentage of the homeless are Native Hawaiians, the inclusion of OHA will enhance the focus needed to end homelessness among this population.

We appreciate the intent of this bill and your focus on much needed behavioral health, substance abuse and homelessness services. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 373-0356 • bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org





Founded in 1865

William Booth
Founder

Brian Peddle
General

Douglas Riley
Territorial Commander

Jeffrey Martin
Eloisa Martin
Divisional Leaders

Melanie Boehm
Divisional Social Services
Director

The Salvation Army

Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division

4-1-2021

HB541 HD1 SD1 Contracts for Substance Abuse, Mental Health COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

- Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, Apr. 9, 2021: 10:00am Videoconference

The Salvation Army SUPPORTS HB541 HD1 SD1:

The Salvation Army supports the convening of a representative work group to identify gaps in services, coordinate funding sources, and establish outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness. This is a strong step by the State and stakeholders to design an effective and informed approach for a full treatment continuum that can focus on providing high quality care.

The Salvation Army particularly supports the input of treatment providers through the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC) as well as from other sectors of our system of care.

We trust this work group can clarify desired outcome measures with input from providers and referral sources, taking into account evidence-based quality of services, qualified staff, and related program costs associated with a full treatment continuum of care (including specialized residential, outpatient, wrap around services, and continuing care). This continuum of care must have sustainable long term-impacts on the community it serves. The efforts of this work group will also result in continued help to the uninsured while giving attention to coordination with the Medicaid enrollment process. Finally, a discussion about adequate and/or braided reimbursement rates to include state funds would be most helpful for providers.

An effort of this depth and breadth is significant so it is critical to have representatives from government, providers, insurers, and other community stakeholders involved.

This may be a timely opportunity given the probable devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity will help Hawai'i be prepared to address the expected 4th wave of mental health and substance use crisis.

It is our hope that the work group will focus primarily on ensuring that individuals with mental health or substance use disorders receive the best possible evidence-based care. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie T. Boehm M.A., LMHC, CSAC
Divisional Social Services Director
The Salvation Army, Hawai'ian and Pacific Islands Division

The Salvation Army Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division

2950 Manoa Rd. ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 ♦ Tel: (808) 988-2136 ♦ Fax: (808) 440-1922

Visit us at: www.Hawaii.SalvationArmy.org



Aloha United Way
Hawaii Island United Way
Kaua'i United Way
Maui United Way

Our AUW Designation
Number is 96450

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 6:41:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Constance Porter	Testifying for American Medical Response Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a paramedic with AMR Kauai and I work at the M25 station in Lihue which we are told is in jeopardy of being cut out of the budget. I am writing testimony to support keeping this valuable resource on Kauai. I helped to open this station and have seen first hand how it has helped to improve coverage and response times island wide. I feel it would be a mistake and disservice to our community to remove it. Thank you

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:56:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	Testifying for AMR	Support	No

Comments:

We (AMR) respectfully support proposed HB 541 HD1 (SD2), Section 2, which provides funding for essential Emergency Medical Services statewide! This funding is necessary to support EMS services as they are currently being provided.

We are also supportive of SB 1340 which licenses Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) as an essential component of our State EMS System. The proposed EMR licensure mirrors National EMS standards. However, rather than creating an “additional” license in Section 3 of HB 541, we suggest language for DCCA to define the EMR scope of practice or level of practice currently provided by non-ambulance first responders in Hawaii.

Thank you.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, April 9, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 541, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board limits its comments to part III of this bill and defers to the Department of Health regarding parts II and II.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish a working group within the Department of Health to identify gaps in services; coordinate funding sources; and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness; (2) make an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the State comprehensive emergency medical system for expenses related to collective bargaining and other current expenses; and (3) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to create a licensure category for emergency medical technicians who have received certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) at a higher level of practice than emergency medical responders but who do not provide emergency ambulance services.

The Board appreciates the importance of the role that emergency medical personnel play in providing health care services to the State and recognizes the growing interest in providing a tier of licensure for non-ambulance first responders who are NREMT-certified. As such, the Board respectfully requests that the Committee allow the DCCA or the Board to examine the possibility of creating an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians who have received certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians at a higher level of practice than emergency medical responders but who do not provide emergency ambulance services, instead of creating an additional licensure category without establishing scope of

practice, qualifications for licensure, and necessary personnel and funding. The Board has been apprised that there may be over 1,100 individuals eligible for licensure.

If the Committee is inclined, part III, section 4, would be amended to read:

SECTION 4. The department commerce and consumer affairs shall examine the possibility of creating an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians who have received certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians at a higher level of practice than emergency medical responders but who do not provide emergency ambulance services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

April 9, 2021

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Christy MacPherson, Director, PHOCUSED

SUBJECT: Testimony: Relating to Health

Hearing: April 9, 2021 at 10:00 am
Via videoconference

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony with **comments** on HB541, HD1 SD1.

PHOCUSED is a nonpartisan project of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice and comprises health and human service organizations and the people they serve across the State of Hawai'i. We have been collaborating on advocacy pertaining to critical procurement and service delivery issues that directly impact our providers.

PHOCUSED supports Section 1 of the proposed SD2 that would establish a working group within the Department of Health "to identify gaps in services, coordinate funding sources, and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness."

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB541, HD1 SD1.

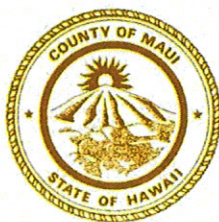
PHOCUSED IS A PROJECT OF HAWAII APPLESEED

733 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1180 • HONOLULU, HI 96813 • (808) 587-7605 • PHOCUSED.ORG

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

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 541, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 2, Relating to Health

I am David C. Thyne, member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and the Fire Chief of Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 541, HD 1, SD 2, which requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to create an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians (EMT) who are certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical responders (EMR) but do not provide ambulance services.

Approximately 1,400 EMTs in Hawaii are currently certified by the National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), which is the standard for educational requirements in most states. Over 400,000 individuals are certified by the NREMT.

State EMT licensure of fire fighters and lifeguards certified as EMTs should more closely align to the appropriate level of certification to achieve consistency with national standards. Testimony in other similar proposed legislative bills that suggested NREMT-certified fire fighters and lifeguards be licensed by the State as EMRs was inconsistent with NREMT certification level and did not match the education standards or the scope of practice models for EMRs and EMTs as defined by the NREMT.

The level of care provided by fire fighters and lifeguards who are EMT-certified in the prehospital setting currently exceeds the EMR level and includes the majority of the EMT scope of practice. Furthermore, fire fighters and lifeguards who are EMT-certified do participate in the transport of patients (as outlined in the NREMT's description of an EMT), as they regularly assist in the ambulance during the transport of critical patients en route to the hospital.

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Page 2

April 8, 2021

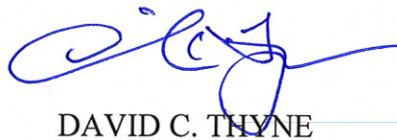
This is a substantial, valuable service that results in no additional direct cost to the recipient and is transparent to the public. Without the passage of HB 541, HD 1, SD 2, a significant downgrade in the level of care provided by county and state fire department EMTs would result and negatively impact the outcome of thousands of emergency medical services patients. The language in HB 541, HD 1, SD 2 will not adversely affect the level of care or standard of practice provided by certified EMTs who work on an ambulance.

Counterintuitively, the state of Hawaii offers direct reciprocity for paramedics and advanced EMTs, but not at the EMT level. The SFC welcomes the creation of a separate level of EMT licensure to recognize and license individuals who have met NREMT requirements for EMT certification, but do not satisfy the Hawaii requirement for an ambulance transport EMT.

The SFC urges the committee's approval of HB 541, HD 1, SD 2 to enable the DCCA to create an additional licensure category for EMTs who are certified at a higher practice level than EMRs but do not provide ambulance services.

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

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

LATE

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:39:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOSE SAA	Testifying for Maui County Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments:

Suupport is FOR Part II

Against Part III

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 4:22:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Soule	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am in support of HB 541, especially section II that requests funding for EMS.

The appropriation of \$4,780,880 for EMS STATEWIDE to cover the shortfall that we've been facing for this current FY 2000-2021 is vitally needed to continue providing quality and timely response to emergency calls in our communities. Without this \$\$, there is a risk that EMS stations will close and service to each and every one of our districts in the State of Hawaii will suffer.

Mahalo!

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 7:57:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darrin Rowan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of the latest amended proposals (SD2) to HB541 HD1. In particular PART II of this bill directing the needed funds to allow county Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to continue with their current resources during a once in a century pandemic. At a time when we should be focused on the continued health and safety of our ohana, cutting funding for EMS would provide the exact opposite. Cuts to Emergency Medical Services would be both ill-advised and dangerous. It affects not only your constituents, but your very ohana. I ask you to use your political voice to direct these funds and prevent these poorly directed fiscal cutbacks, as the visitor industry will expect a safe destination as tourism returns, and our families and ohana deserve a safe home not only now during this pandemic, but throughout the recovery of our islands from COVID19.

I humbly request support for this proposal, and continue to fully fund EMS during these challenging times.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:17:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Haruguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

PART II recommending the appropriation of \$4,780,880 for State EMS is vital. We will not have the same quality care for Hawaii's residents and visitors if existing services are not adequately funded.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:27:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mendonsa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

31 Legislature
State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

David Mendonsa
640 Komo Ohia Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair and Representatives,
I appreciate the opportunity to express the importance for HB541 HD1 SD1 as it relates to continued operations of Emergency Medical Services. Call volumes are increasing. COVID positive rates climb. "Don't Stall- Call 911." We need your support to continue to forge through COVID 19 and continue the provision of service for medically ill and injured patients. Our community needs your help. When someone calls 911 Emergency Medical Services will be there.

Please Support!

Aloha Kakou,
David

David Mendonsa, PA-C, MCHS, MPA
EMS Provider, Healthcare Provider, Hawaii MRC Volunteer, Hawaii ARC Volunteer
Prior- Service Member, UH EMS Faculty, Aeromedical Provider

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:36:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The most immediately impactful section of this bill is in PART-2. Please APPROVE in order to keep EMS intact and avoid having emergency ambulance unit hours cut throughout the State. Thank you.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 10:07:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Part II of this legislation would address the current budget shortfall for our statewide prehospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

Our state is unique in that it offers a high standard of advanced life support (ALS) coverage across all islands and counties, available to all our residents and visitors at a moment's notice.

This system is associated with greatly reduced morbidity and mortality from injuries, medical emergencies, and illnesses.

Revenue has decreased due in part to the nationwide reliance on transport as the only means of remuneration, when in fact in many cases ALS transport to an overcrowded ER is not always the most appropriate outcome for the patient, the community, or the system. In February 2020, Hawaii was awarded statewide enrollment in the federal Emergency Triage, Treatment and Transport to alternative desitnations (ET3) program funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):

<https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/et3>

The ET3 program is a major step in the right direction and would finally provide a substantial pathway for our state to be reimbursed for non-transport EMS services, which are an important but underappreciated component of our system. To date, however, there is no substantial evidence of Hawaii implementing ET3. This 'leaves money on a table' and also may jeopardize Hawaii's enrollment in this 5-year repayment plan.

I support Part II of HB541 HD1 SD1 which would address the current shortfall. In addition, I urge legislators to advocate on behalf of our communities, supporting and ensuring that Hawaii DOH/EMS move forward towards full implementation of the ET3 program.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 10:17:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maren Anka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the House of Representatives,

I'm writing in support of HB541 HD1, specifically part II. As a Maui resident, we rely heavily on EMS, especially in the rural areas. I'm respectfully asking that you pass this legislation, allowing \$4,780,880 of the general revenues to be appropriated for EMS.

As tourism seems to be surging back and COVID19 still spreading, we need EMS now, more than ever... to keep residents and visitors safe.

Thank you for your time,

Maren Anka

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 10:42:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danh Richardson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe this bill would take away > \$4.7 million from the EMS system. If this is the case, then I oppose the bill. I believe this is not a time to take away from the system. We are in a pandemic that is still increasing in the number of infections, and now killing more younger/healthier people. I'm a paramedic in Maui county and the numbers of sick COVID patients that call 911 for help are on the rise. If taking money away from the system causes a decrease in the of number ambulances, it would cause a delay in people getting life saving help. Now that the tourists are back in full swing, it has been getting busier. Even with COVID testing mandates, some people are still coming in positive. So with all this said, I whole-heartedly oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Danh Richardson

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:28:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Eisenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members,

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on support of HB541 HD1 SD1

My name is Jeffrey Eisenbach and I have been working as a state licensed AEMT on the island of Kauai for our primary EMS provider since April 2016. I have resided on the island since 1989 and have become increasingly aware of the yearly increase of tourist traffic, as well as the influx of new residents since then. It is for this reason that EMS services on our island have the finances available to effectively administer to the needs of our local and tourist populations. In particular our newest ambulance station Medic 25 located in Lihue provides not only their geographic area coverage; but is able to assist in backup operations. This happens frequently when our ambulance(s) have to vacate their areas of coverage to provide transport to the hospital during 911 emergencies. Again, without passage of this bill and the funding it will provide our EMS services will simply not be able to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Eisenbach AEMT

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 12:21:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jamie pagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in support of the appropriation of the \$4.7 million to cover the state EMS shortfall. I currently work as a paramedic in Maui County, and yes at the beginning of our COVID shutdown, our call volume plummeted, but since reopening I can honestly say my call volume in the tourist area I predominately work is back to pre-pandemic levels. In conjunction with that is the fact that my unit is in the same district as Makena State Park, where lifeguards were pulled from the beaches because of lack of funds. Since tourism's return, I too have had multiple calls to this treacherous beach, all with tourists, and all with severe life altering injuries. I humbly ask that you please fund state EMS, because you may be looking at money now, but we are talking about loss of lives if our response times are increased when we too get cut from your budgets.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 7:02:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
douglas vant groenewout	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

dear sir/maam. please accept this testimony to accept the funding to continue hawaii's prehospital service for YOUR people of hawaii nei.... there isn't any room for any cutbacks, now that the daily call volume is back up to pre covid levels, and we are running very very hard again.. not to mention involved directly with the stress of protecting ourselves and your people..

do not cut this very necessary funding. please, for the people of hawaii and our visitors.. all will be affected by this necessary service.. this is infrastructure.. mahalo. doug v

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:22:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Conrad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

this bill is high priority for the safety of Kauai population and tourist. the need for this ambulance has been well documented with numbers and complexity of care. If this is not available, major time delay for critical patients both medical and trauma with then inappropriate care being delivered.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:19:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Gragas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Currently I am a paramedic within Maui County, this is my 37th. year. I realize it has been a difficulty year for the entire State of Hawaii. EMS is a very much needed essential along with our fellow First Responders. Any lack of services due to budgetary cuts only affects the health of our community. There are aspects of our sevicies that we can trim. I hope the overall readiness and availability of EMS will not be jeopardized. Thank you for the work you do in keeping our State moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Gragas, 808-385-1663

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:23:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Moller Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS.

You, your family, your neighbors, your entire community.

EMS funds is ESSENTIAL to every single one of us.

Strokes, heart attacks, uncontrollable bleeds can be savable if the proper care is readily available. Permanent disablement or death is NOT worth any bugged cut - it is actually more costly on the long run.

Private companies will NOT protect our remote communities.

I strongly support this updated bill which includes a request for funding to make up the shortfall in available funds to keep Hawaii's EMS system whole. As it stands, we stand to lose services statewide unless the Department of health receives this appropriation from the legislature and governor.

I fight for the right standards, equipment, expectations, and working environments. It is absolutely wrong and selfish to let Hawaii lose the EMS services they currently have. There are other ways to cut funds. Don't take from emergency health department.

Please accept my testimony. I support this bill.

Aloha

Andrea Moller Fisher

andreamoller@me.com

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:36:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tito Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given the ongoing devastation of the COVID pandemic, it is vital that we continue the emergency medical and mental health services. Thank you for considering funding the budget shortfall for the State comprehensive emergency medical system.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:37:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Hill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill It is imperative this bill passes as it is what best serves and the residents and visitors to our county; Keeping our family, friends, community and well as our visitors safe by having aid available to them at all hours of the day, and in in all communities on our island. In 2019 alone there were approx. 20,000 people in Maui county alone that were served by Maui county EMS. Life is precious and the lack of help when an emergency arises due to a lack of funding should never be an issue. Thank you for your time and consideration in to support bill HB541.

Autumn Hill

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:43:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrienne Laurion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a private and concerned resident, it is vital we continue to provide full funded EMS services statewide. Please do not allow our communities will lose the EMS service we currently have in place. AMR has always provided quality treatment and high standards. No community should be worried they will lose this important service. And, no community resident should be worried about losing their professional career they have worked so hard to obtain. Please invest in our health and well-being by committing to fully supporting all EMS units.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:56:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phillip Wu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to you today to submit testimony about the issues that need be highlighted for the need to fund our EMS system. We have seen over the years that tourism and the number of visitors increases on a yearly basis, with the only exception being 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic. Just in the last year we have seen hotels being renovated and new hotels being built to supply more rooms to an infrastructure on Maui that can not sustain the influx of tourists that come every year. The building of more rooms and means there will be more people on the islands than the previous year before. This is a time to be proactive with funding to prepare for the inevitable increase of tourists every year.

Along with the care that the inevitable influx of tourists will bring, funding should also be based on the needs of the community as well. The population of Maui continues to increase every year as well. The EMS system is stretched across a network and transportation infrastructure that has minimal cross over in coverage and requires travel of long distances to transport patients to the only hospital on the island. The means that the 10 units on the island of Maui, where we can find the highest concentration of emergency cases, are limited and stretched with every emergency call. In 2019 there was approximated 20,000 emergency requests for Maui County. The majority of these calls are concentrated to 10 units on the island of Maui that can be averaged out to approximately 2,000 calls per unit and close to 6 calls per day of unknown length and serverity. The number of calls will be increasing in numbers every year as we see more and more people based on the number of hotel rooms that we keep adding to the oversaturated hospitality market that we already attempt to sustain.

The EMS infrastructure will need a solid foundation to be able to handle this influx instead of scrambling to find the necessary resources required to provide the best care that each individual deserves when they request for emergency care. This is a chance to be proactive instead of reactive to predicatable consequences. This is a chance to allow some for the human right of a solid foundation of exceptional medical care that the local community will need and can build off of. It will provide one less worry for the people and the communities that continue to struggle to survive in a place that they pridefully call their home.

Mahalo for your time,

Phillip Wu

LATE

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:09:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Bailey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill will put heavy burdens on the Emergency Medical Services for the whole State of Hawaii. Cutting funding for 911 ambulances will limit the number ambulance vehicles, and delay emergency help by one hour or more to our Hawaii Communities. Instead of weakening the emergency needs of the Hawaii Residents, they must be strengthened.

LATE

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:18:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james kimmel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We desperately see this funding to addiquitly serve and protect our community

April 8, 2021

LATE

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony Commenting on HB 541 HD1 (SD2), Section 2

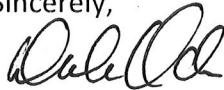
Dr. Senator Dela Cruz,

This letter is written in support of HB 541 HD1 (SD2), Section 2, which provides funding for essential Emergency Medical Services. It is of paramount importance to continue vital EMS services as they are currently being provided across the state of Hawaii, and funding is absolutely necessary to support that.

However, I do not believe that creating an "additional" license in Section 3 of HB 541 is an action that will better manage any significant issues. On the contrary, it could create confusion in the current system as well as add unnecessary costs and inefficiencies. SB 1340 which licenses Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) and formally recognizes that very important and established role as a regulated profession, which aligns with the national scope of practice model.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dale Oda, M.D.

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 3:08:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Maui cannot afford to lose ambulance services. Please pass this bill and fund the budget shortfall of \$4,780,880 to keep Maui communities safe.

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aharon, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means



Friday, April 9, 2021 10:00AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In support of HB 54, HD1, SD1 Relating to Health.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Aharon, and Member of the Committee,

My name is Nicolle Cruz and I am currently a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write today in support of House Bill 54, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, which would establish a working group within the Department of Health to identify gaps in service, coordinate funding sources, and establish and identify outcomes measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness.

It is already known that there are gaps in service when it comes to people's health such as not being able to afford healthcare. Establishing a group that would be able to identify even more gaps of service and possibly find more funding resources to assist with these gaps would better our community as a whole.

With the amount of homelessness that is current in the state of Hawai'i, I think it is extremely important a working group be established to focus solely on the reasons behind homelessness such as behavioral health issues and substance use. The sooner this group is able to identify even just one of the main causes that are contributing to our homelessness issue, the sooner solutions can be made.

Having people that are passionate about identifying these gaps and closing these gaps is crucial to our future so why not allow them to. The benefits of passing this bill would not only help our community now but our future communities to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this piece of legislation.
Nicolle N Cruz

HB-541-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 5:17:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pauline Fiene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please grant this request for funding to keep Hawaii's EMS system whole. The last place funding cuts should be made are to services that save precious lives.