

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
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March 22, 2021

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1340, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1
Relating to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

I am Steven Goble, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1, which requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to examine the creation of an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians (EMT) who are certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical responders (EMRs) but do not provide ambulance services.

Approximately 1,400 emergency medical technicians (EMT) in Hawaii are currently certified by the 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 National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) should more closely align to the appropriate level of certification to achieve consistency with national standards. Previous versions of SB 1340 that suggested NREMT certified fire fighters and lifeguards be licensed by the State as EMRs was inconsistent with the 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 Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
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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 substantially valuable service that results in no additional direct cost to the recipient and is transparent to the public. Without the passage of SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1, 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 SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1 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 SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1 to enable the DCCA to examine the creation of 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,



STEVEN GOBLE
Vice Chair

SG/GL:st

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1340, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

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

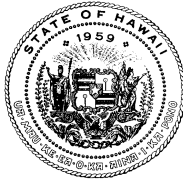
The purposes of this bill are to: (1) enable the Board to license emergency ambulance service personnel and emergency medical responders; and (2) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to examine the creation of an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians who are certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical responders, but do not provide ambulance services.

The Board appreciates the intent of this bill to create a tiered system of licensure without compromising an enhanced level of emergency services provided by other emergency medical personnel certified by the Board.

The Board has been apprised that should this measure be enacted, 1,100+ firefighters would potentially qualify for licensure as emergency medical responders. This sheer number would place a considerable hardship on the one office assistant who is responsible for processing all new emergency medical personnel related applications. Accordingly, the Board requests an appropriation to the Compliance Resolution Fund that would be equivalent to the cost of two positions, operating costs, and the authority to assess a surcharge until these costs are recouped. At a minimum, the Board would request authority to recruit and employ two FTEs: (a) one OA-IV; and (b) one OA-V and a sufficient appropriation to start up the program¹.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹OA-IV salary + fringe = \$56,313.60
OA-V salary + fringe = \$60,806.40



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1340, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Hearing Date: 3/24/2021 Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health defers to the Department of Commerce and
- 2 Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Medical Board regarding the implementation and fiscal
- 3 impacts of this bill.

- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports S.B. 1340, S.D. 2., H.D.1. This
- 5 bill seeks changes to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 453, Part II: Emergency Medical Service
- 6 Personnel regarding standards for the creation of the emergency medical responder (EMR) as a
- 7 fourth level of licensed pre-hospital care. The measure enables the Hawaii medical board to
- 8 issue licenses for emergency medical responders (EMR). Current criteria for other pre-hospital
- 9 license types are preserved.

- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO

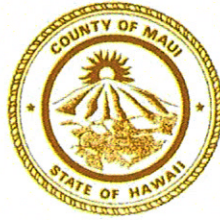
Mayor

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

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1340, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1
Relating to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

I am David C. Thyne, member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1, which requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to examine the creation of an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians (EMT) who are certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical responders (EMRs) but do not provide ambulance services.

Approximately 1,400 emergency medical technicians (EMT) in Hawaii are currently certified by the NREMT, which is the standard for educational requirements in most states. Over 400,000 individuals are certified by the NREMT.

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This is a substantially valuable service that results in no additional direct cost to the recipient and is transparent to the public. Without the passage of SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1, 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 SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1 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 SB 1340, SD 2, HD 1 to enable the DCCA to examine the creation of 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

SB-1340-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 12:04:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	AMR	Comments	No

Comments:

We respectfully support the intent of SB 1340 SD2 HD1 which licenses first responders as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR). This recognizes the essential work of first response in our EMS System. Additionally, the language of the bill aligns with the NREMT, NHTSA and NAEMSO recommended standards for EMS Systems.

SB-1340-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 2:01:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Ancheta, MPH	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

We respectfully support the intent of SB 1340 SD2 HD1 which licenses first responders as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR). This recognizes the essential work of first response in our EMS System. Additionally, the language of the bill aligns with the NREMT, NHTSA and NAEMSO recommended standards for EMS Systems. Mahalo

SB-1340-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 3:48:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will recognize many first responders statewide as ***licensed*** Emergency Medical Responders even though they do not work on an ambulance. They deserve this recognition and licensure. Please support this bill. Thank you.

SB-1340-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 7:18:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Committee members, leaders, legislators:

I thank the legislature for its hard work in this SD2 revision, and I do support it in this form. SD2 markedly improved the bill, recognizing **Emergency Medical Responders (EMR)** as key providers within our EMS system, but leaving undisturbed existing and appropriate state standards for education and practice at the subsequent levels of care (EMT, AEMT, Paramedic). With these improvements, I support this legislation. In the event there is concern from agencies about existing personnel who may have basic national but not state EMT certification, I believe very reasonable options would exist: either credential as a State of Hawaii EMR, or pursue additional and existing training pathways to qualify as a State of Hawaii EMT. From my perspective, this should not be prohibitive.

Thus, so long as we establish the appropriate (4) levels of practice in Hawai'i (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) I do not see the necessity of creating *two* levels of EMT within the state. I am somewhat concerned at the confusion that this might create, including among 'consumers' (i.e. patients and public) in Hawai'i. That said, with the latest language only obliging the DCCA to "examine" the EMT issue, if further revision of SB1340 is not feasible I still do support the bill in the SD2 form and I would not wish to see any delay in its enactment or implementation.

The best *consumer protection* in this case is to ensure that our resident and visitor population are served by the entire continuum of care in prehospital EMS, whose providers will be a tightly knit team guided by an appropriate blend of state and national standards for education and practice. Inclusion of Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) in this paradigm is long overdue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David N. Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

March 23, 2021

Representative Ryan Yamane
Chairman, Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony Commenting on SB 1340 SD2 HD1

Dr. Representative Yamane,

It is encouraging to see that the State of Hawaii is acknowledging the need to recognize Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) as a necessary level of licensure which aligns with the provider levels already defined by both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), as well as countless agencies across the country. The job description and the scope of practice described by NHTSA matches the unmistakable role that hundreds of existing first responders including firefighters, water safety, and others have been performing daily for decades within our EMS system.

I would like to voice my support for SB1340 SD2 HD1.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Oda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dale" and last name "Oda" clearly distinguishable.

Dale Oda, M.D.

SB-1340-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 1:07:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Fortuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments: