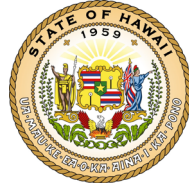


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services
and Homelessness
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

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

I am Steven Goble, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC does not support SB 1340, SD 2 in its current form. This bill enables the Hawaii medical board to license National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certified firefighters and ocean safety lifeguards as emergency medical responders (EMR). The SFC fully supports the concept of State certification/licensure of non-ambulance NREMTs; however, SD2 classifies these non-ambulance trained practitioners generically as emergency medical responders. This is problematic within the national certifying body because Emergency Medical Responder is a level of certification (lower level) within the National Registry system. The SFC recommends SB 1340, SD 2 should more closely align with the NREMT levels of certification to achieve consistency with national standards.

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. The NREMT does have an EMR certification which does align to language in section 2 of SB 1340, SD 2; however, EMT-certified firefighters and ocean safety lifeguards are trained to a level above the EMR.

SB 1340, SD 2 should align the state EMT licensure with the NREMT. Language in SB


1340, SD 2 that NREMT certified EMTs who are not working on ambulances be licensed as EMRs do 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.

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 SB 1340, 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 SB 1340, 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 suggests 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 requests the committee's revision of SB 1340, SD 2 to enable the Hawaii medical board to license NREMT certified firefighters and ocean safety lifeguards as EMTs, not EMRs.

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 Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Yamane 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.

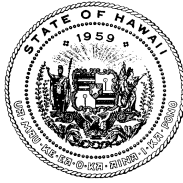
The purpose of this bill is to enable the Board to license emergency ambulance service personnel and emergency medical responders.

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 program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Hearing Date: 3/16/2021 Room Number: VideoConference

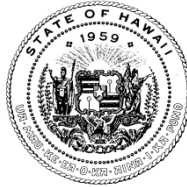
- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health defers to the Department of Commerce and
- 2 Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Medical Board regarding the implementation and fiscal
- 3 impacts of this bill.

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

- 9 The Department appreciates the intent to expand certification/licensure of emergency medical
- 10 responders other than ambulance service personnel.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 16, 2021
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

S.B. 1340, S.D. 2
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B.1340, S.D. 2 which will enable the Hawaii medical board to license emergency ambulance service personnel and emergency medical responders that will align Hawaii with the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Responder.

The DOT requests that this bill recognize Airport Rescue Firefighters as emergency medical responders and eligible for licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



MANUEL P. NEVES
FIRE CHIEF

LIONEL CAMARA JR.
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services,
and Homelessness
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

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

I am Lionel Camara Jr., Acting Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD does not support SB 1340, SD 2, which enables the Hawaii Medical Board to license National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)-certified fire fighters and ocean safety lifeguards as emergency medical responders (EMR). The HFD recommends SB 1340, SD 2 align more closely with the NREMT certification levels to achieve consistency with national standards.

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, and over 400,000 individuals are certified by the NREMT nationwide. The NREMT has an EMR certification that aligns with the language in Section 2 of SB 1340, SD 2; however, EMT-certified fire fighters and ocean safety lifeguards are trained to a level above the EMR.

SB 1340, SD 2 should align the state EMT licensure with the NREMT. Language in SB 1340, SD 2 that NREMT-certified EMTs who do not work on ambulances be licensed as EMRs does not match the educational 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 transporting patients, which is outlined in the NREMT's description of

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Page 2
March 12, 2021

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 SB 1340, 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 SB 1340, 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 HFD suggests 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 HFD requests the committee's revision of SB 1340, SD 2 to enable the Hawaii Medical Board to license NREMT-certified fire fighters and ocean safety lifeguards as EMTs not EMRs.

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

Sincerely,



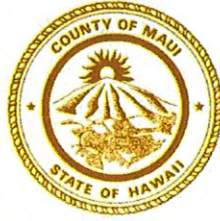
LIONEL CAMARA JR.
Acting Fire Chief

LCJ/GL:cn

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 16, 2021

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services
and Homelessness
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1340, Senate Draft (SD 2) 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 does not support SB 1340, SD 2 which enables the Hawaii medical board to license National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certified firefighters and ocean safety lifeguards as emergency medical responders (EMR). The SFC recommends SB 1340, SD 2 should more closely align with the NREMT levels of certification to achieve consistency with national standards.

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. The NREMT does have an EMR certification which does align to language in section 2 of SB 1340, SD 2; however, EMT-certified firefighters and ocean safety lifeguards are trained to a level above the EMR.

SB 1340, SD 2 should align the state EMT licensure with the NREMT. Language in SB 1340, SD 2 that NREMT certified EMTs who are not working on ambulances be licensed as EMRs do not match the education standards or the scope of practice models for EMRs and EMTs as defined by the NREMT.

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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 SB 1340, 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

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair

Page 2

March 16, 2021

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Counterintuitively, the state of Hawaii offers direct reciprocity for paramedics and advanced EMTs, but not at the EMT level. The SFC suggests 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 requests the committee's revision of SB 1340, SD 2 to enable the Hawaii medical board to license NREMT certified firefighters and ocean safety lifeguards as EMTs, not EMRs.

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-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 7:38:11 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 1340 SD2 which licenses first responders as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR). Under existing law in Hawaii first responders are certified and not recognized or licensed in the essential role they play in our EMS System. This measure addresses this and is in alignment with the NREMT.

SB-1340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:21:04 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

March 14, 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

Dr. Representative Yamane,

I would like to offer my opinion from the perspective of a former emergency physician, including 10 years as the Chief of Emergency Medicine at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu where I practiced for 19 years. In addition, I would also like to speak on this having worked with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Hawaii since 1976, and my current participation as a Medical Director within EMS. Based on these experiences, I would like to add my support for SB 1340 relating to inclusion of Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) as licensed providers to the team of first responders in our great system of prehospital care.

The definition of an EMR is defined by both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). It matches the unmistakable role that hundreds of existing first responders including firefighters, water safety, and others have performed daily for decades within our EMS system. Clearly, they perform a very important role, which is to *"provide immediate life-saving interventions while awaiting additional EMS resources to arrive"*. This is the standard of care that has been established in prehospital care systems in nearly every state across the country. In fact, the "National Scope of Practice Model 2019" document explicitly provides comprehensive descriptions of the roles, skills, education requirements, and levels of supervision (among other attributes) for the four levels of providers they recognize in EMS:

- **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)**
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
- Paramedic

Currently and for many years, the state of Hawaii has only recognized three (other) levels of providers for licensure. Inclusion of EMRs as a level of licensure immediately completes the team of providers designed by the National Scope of Practice model developed by NHTSA decades ago. Notably, NREMT, in alignment with NHTSA, provides certification and recertification requirements for each of these roles. Hawaii, similar to 45 other states in the U.S., holds NREMT certification as a standard measure of competence in EMS. But until now, Hawaii did not include EMRs in this assessment. NREMT clearly defines the level of training required for these critically important first responders, and by recognizing them, Hawaii is one step closer to a well-established standard of care. Having Hawaii aligned with the rest of the

country also makes expectations clear for each providers' roles, and this will facilitate integration of providers recruited from out-of-state into our existing prehospital care system. It is hard to think of a reason why this should not be done.

For obvious reasons, I strongly support SB1340.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Oda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale Oda, M.D.

SB-1340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:03:15 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill clarifies separate licensure for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who work on ambulances from Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) who have a different level of training, curriculum, duties & responsibilities BUT are all vital in the 'chain-of-survival'. As such, they should be licensed as ERMs. Thank you.

SB-1340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:39:48 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support SB1340, SD2 which enables the Hawaii Medical Board to certify Emergency Medical Responders.

SB-1340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:19:39 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need more emergency personnel and medical responders.

SB-1340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:45:10 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I thank the legislature for its hard work in this SD2 revision. This markedly improves the bill, recognizes Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) as key providers within our EMS system, and leaves 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 the SD2 version of this bill would provide reasonable options: either credential as a State of Hawaii EMR, or pursue additional training to qualify as a State of Hawaii EMT. From my perspective, this should not be prohibitive, and should not delay passage and implementation of this important legislation bringing our legions of Emergency Medical Responders into the fold as licensed providers in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

David N. Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic