

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to enable the Board to certify emergency medical responders other than emergency ambulance service personnel.

This bill allows proof of current certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as an EMT to meet the education requirements to perform emergency medical services as an EMT in the State.

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 16-85-54(b)(1) sets forth the current training requirements for EMTs, and a copy is enclosed herein. This rule requires, among other things: (1) completion of an EMT program; (2) completion of didactic training in cardiac defibrillation and IV access from a state-approved EMT program; (3) completion of 96 hours of clinical training obtained through a Board-approved agency; (4) passage of the NREMT's EMT examination; and (5) current certification as an EMT with the NREMT. This rule is the product of a multi-year collaborative effort that included a cross-section of the EMT community. Deliberately establishing a training requirement that exceeds the requirements for NREMT certification, this rule stemmed, in part, from the lack of health care providers in rural and neighbor island areas and the Board's efforts to bridge that gap with EMTs who have additional training and skills.

Although this bill will make it easier for certain trained professionals to become licensed as EMTs, it will do so at the cost of providing an enhanced level of emergency medical services. The Board does not intend to limit certain professionals, such as firefighters, ocean safety lifeguards, or police officers, from obtaining an EMT certificate

or higher levels of board certification. Licensure can be accomplished in a manner that will not jeopardize the current higher-tiered EMT scope of practice¹.

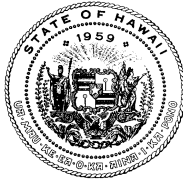
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ HAR §16-85-59(a): Scope of practice. (a) The scope of practice of an EMT shall be restricted to the performance of basic emergency medical care and transportation of patients, cardiac defibrillation, and IV access.

(b) An application for certification shall be made under oath on a form to be provided by the board and shall require the applicant to provide:

(1) For EMT certification:

- (A) The appropriate fees including the application fee which shall not be refunded;
- (B) The applicant's full name;
- (C) The applicant's date of birth;
- (D) Evidence of completion of an EMT program;
- (E) Evidence of completion of didactic training in cardiac defibrillation and IV access from a State-approved EMT program;
- (F) Evidence of completion of 96 hours of clinical training experience obtained through a board-approved agency;
- (G) Evidence of passage of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT examination;
- (H) Evidence of current certification as an EMT from the NREMT;
- (I) Information regarding any conviction of any crime which has not been annulled or expunged;
- (J) If applicable, evidence of any certifications held or once held in other jurisdictions indicating the status of the certification and documenting any disciplinary action; and
- (K) Any other information the board may require to investigate the applicant's qualifications for certification.



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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 1340
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 2/10/2021

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 provides comments on S.B. 1340. This bill
- 5 seeks changes to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 453, Part II: Emergency Medical Service
- 6 Personnel regarding standards for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. The
- 7 measure will 1) change the current educational criteria for certification as an Emergency
- 8 Medical Technician (EMT) and 2) removes the ambulance practice location requirement.
- 9 The Department appreciates the intent to expand certification of emergency medical responders
- 10 other than ambulance service personnel. However, we believe the measure may have unintended
- 11 consequences that lowers the standards for EMT-Basic personnel who work on an ambulance.
- 12 Passage of this measure would eliminate the additional proficiencies currently required (i.e.
- 13 cardiac defibrillation, placement of intravenous line, clinical training time, etc.) for ambulance
- 14 personnel.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:33:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

American Medical Response (AMR) respectfully opposes SB 1340 as written.

This bill seeks to change the current standards for Emergency Medical Technician licensing.

These changes significantly deregulate the ambulance industry, confusing both industry stakeholders and the general public. Chapter 453 has served Hawaii EMS well for greater than 40 years. "All EMT's are not created equally" and Hawaii has had a higher standard of training and scope of practice than Nationally Registered EMTs.

Firefighters and Ocean Safety Lifeguards are essential to our EMS System and we respectfully suggest that these Nationally Registered personnel be licensed as "Emergency Medical Responders (EMR)".

Thank You.

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:47:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mendonsa	Testifying for Paradise Medical Services	Oppose	No

Comments:

31st Legislature/Senate

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

David Mendonsa
Paradise Medical Services, LLC
640 Komo Ohia Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

February 9, 2021

Dear Chair and Representatives,

I appreciate the opportunity to share that Emergency Medical Services personnel perform a vital role in the **treatment and transport** of the ill and injured. The title/scope/licensure of these trained personnel are EMT and EMTP. With respect to additional response entities and public safety partners that assist with the coordinated efforts to ensure a secure chain of survival; Fire, Police, Water/Ocean Safety personnel, and other healthcare partners are vital. As a team we are the EMS system.

However, I humbly request consideration in the not changing the title/scope/licensure of EMS personnel (EMT/MICT). This bill seeks to changes to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 453, Part II: Emergency Medical Service Personnel regarding standards for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification.

Respectfully,

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

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:00:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Anchea	Testifying for American Medical Response	Oppose	No

Comments:

American Medical Response (AMR) respectfully opposes SB 1340 as written.

This bill seeks to change the current standards for Emergency Medical Technician licensing.

These changes significantly deregulate the ambulance industry, confusing both industry stakeholders and to the general public. Chapter 453 has served Hawaii EMS well for greater than 40 years. All EMT's are not created equally and Hawaii has had a higher standard of training and scope of practice than Nationally Registered EMTs.

Firefighters and Ocean Safety Lifeguards are essential to our EMS System and we respectfully suggest that these Nationally Registered personnel be licensed as "Emergency Medical Responders (EMR)".

Thank You.

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 11:09:35 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is well-intentioned but far too flawed for me to support in its current form.

We do need the State of Hawaii to credential and support the full continuum of prehospital emergency medical providers, including Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) in addition to the state's current certification of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics. An EMS system is indeed much more than simply ambulances.

This bill, however, conflates EMRs and EMTs. They are two **separate** levels of education and practice, and should be certified **separately**. Thus, **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)** should be **added** as a level of state certification, rather than muddying the waters of the State EMT level.

The level of misunderstanding around prehospital EMS is alarming. I urge legislators to educate themselves and develop a more accurate and up-to-date understanding of national standards for EMS education (<https://www.ems.gov/>) and certification (<https://www.nremt.org/>).

Further, Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) should also be certified by the State of Hawaii, as 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers managing medical calls represent a critical component of our EMS system. Legislators could learn more about EMD at <https://www.emergencydispatch.org/>

Thank you for your consideration.

David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:14:02 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is confusing. It needs more clarification. Please do not approve. Thank you.

LATE

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:44:34 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thinh Nguyen, M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Thinh Nguyen, M.D. I am a board certified emergency physician and have been involved in emergency medical services for over 25 years, and have worked in Hawaii for last 19 years. I am currently the medical director for the Honolulu Fire Department. I support Senate Bill 1340.

There was a "Reassessment of Emergency Medical Services" for the State of Hawaii published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Technical Assistance Team in October 2019 which stated the following: Recommendations: The Legislature should: 1) Update the existing statute based on input from the Branch and stakeholders. 2) Allow licensed EMS personnel to work in non-ambulance health care settings using their State issued EMS license. 3) DCCA and/or the Hawaii Medical Board should issue a license to qualified applicants for EMS licensure (EMD, EMR, EMTB, AEMT, and Paramedic) irrespective of whether they are employed by an ambulance provider.

Please consider the recommendations of the NTSB in 2019 and support Senate Bill 1340.

Sincerely,

Thinh Nguyen, M.D.

LATE

SB-1340

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:19:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Bonilla	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to humbly oppose SB1340. EMS has been my career for the past 15 years. Current Hawaii Standards for EMS providers have always exceeded the national Curriculum. Thus providing the best patient care possible to the people of Hawaii state wide.