

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1245
RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

REP. Della Au Belatti, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Health & Homelessness

Hearing Date: Feb. 8, 2023

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates \$1.5 million for FY24 and FY25 central Maui ambulance.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments for HB1245
- 3 Central Maui may be defined as the towns of Kahului, Wailuku, and Paia. Currently, there is 1
- 4 ambulance stationed in Kahului and 1 in Wailuku. The population of central Maui between 2010
- 5 – 2020 increased 9.0% from 50,215 to 54,721. Ambulance run data collected between 2017 –
- 6 2022 reveals annual transports averaged 3,900. Ambulance response times averaged 8.8 minutes.
- 7 Although the bill as written appropriates \$1.5 million for a second ambulance for Central Maui,
- 8 the FY23 price is \$1.6 million.
- 9 Although response times are relatively low, given the population is increasing, a central
- 10 ambulance may be needed in the near future.
- 11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 12 **Offered Amendments:**
- 13 Recommend changing line 5 – 6 from page 1 of the bill:
- 14 " ... provided through a private contract with the American Medical Response with state
- 15 funding..."

- 1 to read,
- 2 "[... contractually provided through state funding...]"

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

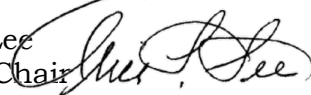
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February 6, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1245, RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health for the purchase of an advanced life-support ambulance and related equipment to be based in Central Maui, and to fund pay-related costs for State-certified emergency medical services personnel.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. The significant population growth in Central Maui warrants additional emergency services.
2. The area would benefit greatly from adding an advanced life-support ambulance, related equipment, and personnel (one emergency medical technician and one paramedic).
3. An additional ambulance would help reduce death and disability among visitors and residents by providing timely response to 911 emergency calls.
4. This measure is consistent with Maui Island Plan policy 4.6.1.f: "Encourage expansion and improved access to emergency care in all communities."

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:40:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: As a Maui Resident, Thank You.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:12:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Bailey	AMR	Support	In Person

Comments:

AMR ambulance has been serving Maui County’s pre-hospital emergency medical service needs for over 40 years. Protecting the health and safety of Maui residents and visitors is important to us. An additional ambulance will help protect more lives by increasing the availability of this lifesaving service.

In addition to many observing Maui’s population growth, according to the Hawaii Tourism Authority visitors are reaching pre-pandemic levels. For example, there were 304,878 visitors to Maui in July 2022 compared to 307,834 visitors in July 2019.

Please accept this testimony in support of HB1245.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:44:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Lightfoot	American Medical Response (AMR Ambulance)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AMR ambulance has been serving Maui County’s pre-hospital emergency medical service needs for over 40 years. Protecting the health and safety of Maui residents and visitors is important to us. An additional ambulance will help protect more lives by increasing the availability of this lifesaving service.

In addition to many observing Maui’s population growth, according to the Hawaii Tourism Authority visitors are reaching pre-pandemic levels. For example, there were 304,878 visitors to Maui in July 2022 compared to 307,834 visitors in July 2019.

Please accept this testimony in support of HB1245.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:45:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Arcinas	American Medical Response	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1245.

American Medical Response has been serving the county for over 40 years and is in need of another ambulance station as the population has grown in the last 10 years. We have also seen an increase in tourism post-pandemic and would benefit from another station serving the more populated towns in Maui.

There have been multiple occasions where responding units come from outlying districts to assist the growing call volume. This results in longer response times for both the outlying area where no ambulance is available, and the area of demand, which can, unfortunately, lead to poor patient outcomes.

Having an additional unit in town would help alleviate the burden of having these units leave their district.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:21:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
douglas vant groenewout	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a matter of necessity and practicality, this HB is LONG overdue. if not passed , the people of central MAUI will undoubtedly suffer from medical and traumatic incidents which will happen. think of it as infrastructure. it can be guaranteed that a second transport ambulance will start off, day one, very very busy. taking care of the people. and saving lives of your people

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:36:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kapena hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1245 which would provide for an ambulance unit for the Kahului are of Maui. The Kahului/Wailuku district of Maui is currently served by just one ambulance. This is the busiest district with a population that has grown exponentially in the last few decades with zero additional resources. This means that ambulances from other districts as far away as Lahaina are being pulled in to the district for emergency calls. That takes resources from other districts, which means longer response times and longer waits for access to lifesaving care in all districts.

Please support this bill to provide an emergency ambulance unit for the Kahului district of Maui.
Thank you,

Kapena Hill

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:41:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donovan	MAUI COUNTY PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Paramedic and member of the community i support this bill and the addition of a central ambulance on Maui.

Nearly a decade has passed and i've watched the call volume increase from 10 calls a day to now 16+ a day. I'm currently stationed at Medic 1 in Wailuku where we alone run approximately 22% of all calls in MAUI COUNTY. Another ambulance in Central Maui will only benefit the entire Island of maui by alleviating other district ambulances from coming into town. Ultimately provided quicker and more efficient emergency patient care.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:30:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fabiola Lemus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Fabiola Lemus.

I've been on Maui since elementary school. This island has definitely been constantly growing, with that said, Maui is in dire need of another fully staffed Ambulance in central Maui.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:02:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordon Takakura-Puha	AMR	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. With the growth of Maui we need at the very least another ALS unit here on Maui to keep up with the demand of the population. Mahalo for your time.

Jordon.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:04:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayna Hill	AMR	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

As an employee of AMR Maui County and a citizen of Maui, I am in full support of an additional emergency ambulance in central Maui. With the growth in population comes the growth and frequency of 911 calls.

Additional emergency ambulance(s) are a must throughout our county as our communities grow.
Mahalo

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:21:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alakai kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are all affected by the lack of availability to EMS. Response time is imperative when it comes to stroke and MI which are amongst the highest causes of death in Hawaii. EMS needs more support

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:22:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Stankis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is long past time.....and that is still putting a band-aid on the larger problem. With the increase in homelessness has come an increase in call volume. With the increasing aging population (both those who have lived here all their lives as well as the increasing numbers of retirees that have relocated here) call volume has increased. We need the additional advanced life support unit, as well as three basic life support units (2 emergency medical technicians each)-one in Central Maui, one in South Maui and one in West Maui. Don't leave the tax payers and voters of Maui with second-rate services.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:51:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesley Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of this bill and the positive outcome it would have for the people of Maui County.

Lesley

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:49:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Florencia Ezcurra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1245 which would provide for an ambulance for the Kahului area. More ambulances are needed because the population on Maui is growing. I stand with my friends and community in agreeance with this bill.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 3:35:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phillip Wu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The emergency medical services on Maui are being overwhelmed by a growing population. The population is projected to grow annually 1.68% There is also the issue of lack of overlapping coverage. There is only one hospital on Maui and there is only one station that services the area surrounding the hospital. If you look at the statistics, this station does the majority of calls in Maui County. Another station in Maalea or closer to the hospital would provided sufficient overlapping coverage to help provide sufficient emergency medical services the densely populations Kahului and Wailuku areas. There is also the issue of long transport times due to poorly planned roadways and traffic congestion.

HB-1245

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 5:17:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Lahm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked in the Maui EMS system for 40 years and have frequently seen calls "stacked up" in the Central area of Maui because there is no ambulance available as they are all running calls. We desperately need another central ambulance to help provide expeditious life saving care to these patients who are being forced to wait.

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony.

Candace Lahm, Operation Team Leader Medic 11/ Chief Flight Medic-Maui Medevac