



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1153 S.D. 1**  
**MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
**HEALTH FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY**  
**PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS  
Hearing Date: 3/23/2021 9:00am Room Number: 329/Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill appropriates an unspecified amount for fiscal year 2020-2021  
2 out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the Department of Health (DOH) for  
3 collective bargaining increases and other current expenses necessary to maintain the current  
4 statewide 911 comprehensive emergency medical services (EMS) system.

5 The DOH requests the following appropriation:

6 1. Section 3: \$4,786,333 for collective bargaining and other current expenses.

7 **Department Testimony:** The DOH strongly supports S.B.1153, S.D. 1, with the requested  
8 appropriation amount to be included. An emergency appropriation is necessary to maintain  
9 comprehensive EMS services for the residents and visitors in the counties of Hawaii, Kauai,  
10 Maui, and Oahu for FY 2021.

11 For the current fiscal year, there is an operational budget shortfall of \$4,786,333. The shortfall  
12 results from pandemic related budget restrictions to the EMS base budget, collective bargaining  
13 increases, and lack of funding for other current expenses related to personnel costs and the three  
14 new emergency medical vehicles approved in 2018 for counties of the City and County of  
15 Honolulu, Kauai, and Hawaii.

16 Recognizing the state's financial shortfall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DOH  
17 explored options to minimize the amount of this emergency request. Through redirecting funds

- 1 within the EMS budget, the Department has been able to partially offset the budget shortfall.
- 2 Although the Department continues to explore several options to improve the resiliency of the
- 3 statewide system, reforms will not be implemented soon enough to meet the anticipated costs for
- 4 the current fiscal year.
  
- 5 If the funds are not provided to meet required FY 21 collective bargaining increases and other
- 6 current expenses, a reduction in critical lifesaving services and essential personnel will be
- 7 necessary to remain within funding limits.
  
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

**SB-1153-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 12:26:18 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Speedy Bailey	AMR	Support	No

Comments:

We respectfully support this bill as essential to the provision of Emergency Medical Services. Thank you.

**SB-1153-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 11:38:31 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This emergency appropriation is necessary to make EMS funds whole to include collective bargaining and other essential expenses statewide. Thank you.

**SB-1153-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 12:35:34 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Kingdon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Legislators:

With an ongoing public health emergency, as well as a visitor population that is returning to the islands, maintaining consistent funding for our prehospital emergency medical services system has never been as important as it is now. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

**SB-1153-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 3:18:28 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tito Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this important bill.

**SB-1153-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 4:52:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Errol S. McGowan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Errol McGowan, I am in FULL support of Bill SB1153. I am a fulltime Paramedic for American Medical Response on the Island of Kauai. I believe that not approving these emergency funds and cutting 911 Emergency Ambulance services for any of our islands would be a detriment to our residents and visitors alike, this especially now during the world wide pandemic.

**SB-1153-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:57:24 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
william t watkins jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB 1153. Cutting EMS is never a good idea. EMS needs to be strengthened, not cut. Thankyou for your time and service.

William Watkins