

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Via Videoconference

On the following measure:

S.B. 2017, RELATING TO RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to repeal Hawaii Revised Statutes section 453-34(d), which limits licensure as an emergency medical technician 1 to individuals whose practice is performed in a county with a population of 500,000 or greater.

The Board appreciates the intent of this measure as it will provide greater access to care to the consumers of this State. However, the Board respectfully requests that section 1 of this bill, the preamble, accurately reflect that an “emergency technician 1” (EMT-1), is not certified at a higher practice level than an emergency medical technician. EMT-1s are certified at a higher practice level than “emergency medical responders”.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2017, Relating to Emergency Medical Services

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 2017, which repeals section 453-34(d), HRS, which limits licensure as an emergency medical technician (EMT) 1 to individuals whose practice is performed in a county with a population of 500,000 or greater.

Approximately 1,400 EMTs in Hawaii are currently certified by the National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), which is the standard for educational requirements in most states. Over 400,000 individuals are certified by the NREMT.

During the coronavirus pandemic over the past two years, the NREMTs across the state have clearly demonstrated their value by providing an additional level of patient care and services. This is particularly the case for Hawaii's neighbor island communities where resources in the pre-hospital environment are not as abundant as in Honolulu County and those resources are geographically dispersed in remote areas.

The SFC suggests the following revisions to SB 2017 to improve clarity and alignment with the National Registry (<https://www.nremt.org/>):

SECTION 1. Act 119, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, created an additional category for "emergency medical technician 1", which is an individual who is certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical [~~technicians~~] responders, but does not provide ambulance services.

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
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The SFC requests the committees' approval of SB 2017 and the suggested revision to expand licensure to all NREMTs throughout the state.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

SG/GL: