

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3248, S.D. 1, H.D. 2

**April 1, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO AMBULANCES

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 3248, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Health for the purchase of one advanced life support ambulance for the island of Moloka'i, related equipment, and pay-related personnel costs.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

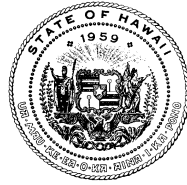
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 3248 S.D.1 H.D.2  
RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 4-1-22 3pm

Room Number: 308/VideoConf

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funding estimated at \$1,600,000 annually would be needed for the  
2 Department of Health to implement this measure plus any annual cost-of-living increases. The  
3 Department requests that passage of any appropriations in this measure does not replace or  
4 adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive supplemental budget request.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of S.B. 3248, S.D.1,  
6 H.D.2, adding another advanced life support ambulance to Molokai increasing the island's  
7 number to two units.

8 The Department of Health contracts for emergency 9-1-1 ambulance services provided for the  
9 County of Maui, which includes the island of Molokai. Molokai has one ambulance unit  
10 operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. This unit is staffed, at  
11 minimum, with one paramedic and one emergency medical technician (EMT).

12 Molokai's resident population has remained stable, estimated 7,345 in 2010 and 7,369 in 2020.  
13 In 2017, there were 896 transports, an average of 2.5 per day, and in 2021, there were 938  
14 transports which averages to 2.6 per day. Over the 5-year period, 2017 to 2021, the median time  
15 between runs was 330 minutes (5.5 hours), one percent (47) of runs had less than 10 minutes  
16 between EMS responses, and three percent (141) of the runs had 10-29 minutes between  
17 responses. Approximately one-third of the runs are interfacility transports, from Molokai  
18 General Hospital to the airport.

19 Challenges include the fact that pre-hospital, paramedic and EMT, personnel numbers are  
20 limited. If passed, additional personnel would be required for Molokai.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Gabe Johnson  
Kelly Takaya King  
Michael J. Molina  
Tamara Paltin  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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

Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 30, 2022

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: March 30, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 3248, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. This measure's purpose is to appropriate funds to purchase one advanced life support ambulance to be based on the island of Moloka'i, and related equipment, and pay related personnel 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. This measure will give Moloka'i residents and visitors better access to primary health care.
2. An advanced life support ambulance and personnel will help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors to Moloka'i by providing timely response to a 911 call, which is critical to those in need of immediate medical care.
3. This measure furthers the following goal of the Moloka'i Island Community Plan: "Protect life, property, and the environment by providing effective and efficient fire protection and rescue services for the island of Moloka'i."

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

April 1, 2022

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair  
State Senate, Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: SB 3248 – Making an Appropriation for Ambulance Service for Moloka'i**

Dear Representatives:

American Medical Response respectfully supports SB 3248, which makes an appropriation for a second ambulance unit on Moloka'i.

The need for another EMS resource on Moloka'i is to serve as a "safety net" for the community when the primary ambulance is:

- On a 911 call
- Taking care of multiple patients
- Transferring critical patients to Air Ambulance
- Geographically distant from the second ambulance patient

Additionally, this unit can serve as a Community Paramedicine and health resource to improve access to primary health care on Moloka'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Speedy Bailey, Regional Director  
American Medical Response

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:42:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chris Rose	MauiCounty Paramedics Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support SB 3248 . This bill has been long over due for the people of Molokai. Because of Molokai's Island configuration it is important to have coverage that can give every person on the Island a timely response to their emergencies. For so long the ambulance crews have been stretched thin with multipule calls and only one ambulance crew. Please pass this bill for the great people of Molokai.



March 29, 2022

**TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**April 1, 2022; 3:00 pm**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3248, SD 1, HD 2 RELATING TO AMBULANCES.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee;

My name is Cheryl Vasconcellos and I am the Executive Director of Hana Health a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing essential primary care and urgent/emergent care in one of the most remote locations in the state. I am testifying in SUPPORT of this bill.

Molokai, is very similar to Hana in that both areas have limited access to most services that are taken for granted in the more populated areas of the state. Emergency health care should not be one of those services. Sufficient ambulance service is critical to the health, safety and well- being of Molokai residents and I strongly urge your support of this important measure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-248-7515, extension 26.

Very Truly Yours,

*Cheryl Vasconcellos*

Cheryl Vasconcellos  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Lynn DeCoite  
Representative Linda Clark



March 31, 2022

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Friday, April 1, 2022  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Via Videoconference

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3248 SD1, HD2, RELATING TO  
AMBULANCES.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc., dba Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) is the only Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located on Molokai and one of four FQHC's in Maui County. MCHC provides primary care, dental services, mental health services, and care enabling services to patients on Molokai, regardless of their ability to pay for such services. MCHC is in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3248, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 2, Relating to Ambulances.**

This bill seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Health to purchase one advanced life support ambulance to be based on the island of Molokai, and related equipment, and pay related to personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

Molokai is a rural and medically underserved area where our Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responders are required to serve a geographically large and sparsely populated area with one, single ambulance. Due to the nature of infrastructure on Molokai, or limited infrastructure in some cases, our EMS providers may need to travel farther or navigate difficult terrain when responding to a call or transporting a patient to the hospital. Adverse weather conditions, when combined with longer distances and geographical obstacles, can significantly affect response or transport times. Also, in some cases, there is the rare but proven and ethical dilemma, of having an emergency call on opposite sides of our 38-mile-long island simultaneously, whereby pushing a 60+ minute response time up to 120 minute+ response time.

Trauma care is treatment of serious and life-threatening physical injuries and events; this bill would help to remediate the disparities in access to trauma care for a rural and medically vulnerable community, such as Molokai and insure timely access to trauma treatment.

*Mission: To provide and promote accessible comprehensive individual and community health care  
to the people of Molokai with respect and aloha.  
Visit us at <http://molokaicbc.org>*

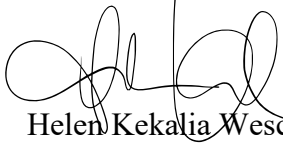




For these reasons, MCHC supports SB3248 SD1, HD2 and **respectfully asks that this measure be approved.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hkekalia@molokaichc.org](mailto:hkekalia@molokaichc.org) or 808-660-2630.

Very Truly Yours,



Helen Kekalia Wescoatt  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Noa Miyamoto, Molokai EMT

Senator Lynn DeCoite

*Mission: To provide and promote accessible comprehensive individual and community health care  
to the people of Molokai with respect and aloha.  
Visit us at <http://molokaichc.org>*



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Janice Kalanihulia, President, Molokai General Hospital – The Queen's Health Systems  
Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: April 1, 2022

Re: Support for SB 3248 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Ambulances

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3248 SD2 HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to purchase one advanced life support ambulance to be based on the island of Molokai, and related equipment, and pay related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel. Molokai currently has only one ambulance providing emergency medical services to residents. With the addition of another advanced life support ambulance, this will increase on-island emergency coverage and decrease the time needed to transport our medical professionals wherever they are most needed on Molokai.

Thank you for allowing Queen's to provided testimony in support of SB 3248 SD2 HD1.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 8:31:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cody Bonilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SB3248. This will provided a much needed added service to the people of Molokai. With is growing population and industries/businesses, EMS needs to expand from its current one ambulance serving the people of Molokai.

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:04:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Candace Lahm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been a paramedic in Maui County for 40 years and witnessed many times the delay in response on Molokai as the ambulance is already on a call. People should not have lengthy waits for lifesaving intervention and another ambulance on Molokai would help alleviate the problem.

For years they have been forced to split up their medics and have one take the backup unit with a fireman, a fireman also joining the first response vehicle, thus diminishing the level of care by not having the standard EMTP and EMT on each vehicle. It is high time this was resolved and proper coverage of the island of Molokai put in place.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Your service is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Candac Lahm, EMTP, Medic 11 Team Leader, Maui Medevac Chief Flight Medic

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:23:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Mendonsa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

David Mendonsa  
2120 Kaohu Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Hawaii State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

TO: Finance Committee/ Member(s) of the Hawaii State Legislature

FR: David Mendonsa

Relating to: SB 3248 RELATING TO AMBULANCES

Please support SB 3248. MOLOKAI'S EMS (Emergency Medical Services) serves over 7,000 community members across 260 square miles of remote areas 24 hours a day. They respond to an average of ~900-1000 calls annually (FY 2019-2021), transport over 80% of the patients. In addition, they assist with the aeromedical transports of patients to advanced medical care on Oahu and Maui.

The EMS personnel that live there are active community resources (doing more than responding to calls and even do so) off duty. There is a back-up ambulance on island, trained and certified personnel ready, capable, and waiting to be deployed. Don't stall- Call 911.

When does an ambulance matter is uncertain, but when you only have one (1) ambulance, you need to be close to the hospital or hope you never need one? What if the life saved by EMS is someone that will change the community or lives of everyone? Is the argument or consideration cost? What is the price of life or patient inequity? Do Molokai tax payers deserve access to EMS?

I know the decision is difficult. Your decision truly is a life and death matter. I am humbled at the opportunity to provide testimony. Please support this initiative for patient equity on Molokai.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 808-268-0268.

Mahalo Nui,  
David Mendonsa, PA-C, Paramedic  
Prior-Army Medic & EMS Faculty

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:29:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
luana keonaona Napoleon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Moloka'i and strongly support SB3248

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:30:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaleialoha Moss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifetime resident of Molokai there have been a number of times we have had to use the emergency services of the ambulance. In fact, when I was in labor with my first child, I had to be rushed to Oahu for an emergency c section, while I had been in labor for hours already at our local hospital, if the ambulance was not available to take me to the airport to be medivaced out, who knows what could have happened to me and our daughter (who is now 12 years old), as our hospital cannot do anesthesia or surgeries. The thought that there could be concurrent emergencies happening on our small island and the ambulance not be able to make it to one because they are already on a call, is a scary thought. Molokai is already limited on our resources, especially when it comes to medical resources, so any help we can get to establish a second emt crew could be life changing or life saving on our island. Thank you.



**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:55:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Po'aihaele Pires	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In favor

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:04:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB3248 SD1 HD2.

Mahalo,

Keomailani Hanapi Hirata

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:28:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Kingdon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislators:

I am writing to express my continued support for SB3248. I am representing myself and no other agency or entity. I am, however, a licensed paramedic in Hawaii, and I have a solid understanding of existing EMS assets and needs in Molokai.

The island of Molokai would certainly benefit from additional EMS resources, and this would reduce all-cause morbidity and mortality among residents and visitors. Molokai is a vital and integral community within Maui County and within our state. It is important that there be prompt and equitable emergency medical service provided to all islands and areas within the broad catchment of Maui County EMS, part of our State EMS system.

This bill also affords an opportunity to implement innovative approaches to prehospital medicine, public health, and public safety. I hope and trust that the legislature will work closely with stakeholders, most notably those experienced with our Molokai EMS team, to shape this paramedic unit in a manner that will best serve the needs of the community they serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:32:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Molokai ABSOLUTELY needs another ambulance. One is not enough for our growing community.

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:35:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gavin Fujioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gavin Fujioka and I'm writing in support of an additional ambulance for the island of Molokai.

Having worked on the island of Molokai as a first responder and recognizing how spread out the population is on the island this additional ambulance is a much needed asset for the Molokai community.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit a written testimony for SB3248

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:44:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noa Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Sylvia Luke

Rep. Kyle Yamashita

Committee on Finance

Noa Miyamoto, Team Leader Medic 8 Molokai

Tuesday March 29, 2022

Support for S.B. No. 3248, Relating to Ambulances

For the past thirty years Medic 8 Molokai has been staffed with two MICT's on duty twenty four hours a day. This staffing model allowed the on duty crew to "split" in the event of multiple emergencies happening simultaneously or in the event of a prolonged case secondary to remote areas of Molokai. As of February 2022 the on duty staffing has been changed to one EMT and one MICT, this translates to no one being able to respond to a 911 call when there is more than one emergency happening at the same time. The addition of a Rapid Response Unit staffed by one MICT would provide the EMS system on Molokai the ability to respond to simultaneous emergencies, dedicate an Advanced Life Support practitioner to emergencies with prolonged response and scene times, and implement the practice of community paramedicine on an island that desperately needs additional pre hospital care. I strongly support S.B. No. 3248, Relating to Ambulances, which would create an additional pre hospital advanced life support ambulance on the island of Molokai.

The ability of Molokai MICT's to provide pre hospital advanced life support for our community has effectively been taken away. Over the past thirty years Medic 8 has been able to creatively manage the unique aspects of providing EMS care for the Island of Molokai. Splitting the on duty crew to provide individual MICT's to respond to separate emergencies was the primary method of dealing with multiple or prolonged events. Calling back off duty personnel to respond or to stand by was also a means to provide additional EMS coverage. Due to deaths and retirements there are no longer additional MICT's living on island to respond in time of need, this necessitated the on duty crew to be able to split up to manage 911 calls. With the current staffing model it is impossible to split crew as an EMT cannot independently provide advanced life support without the supervision of an MICT.

Molokai's unique geography provides response times that are viewed as unacceptable by any EMS agency. Everything West of Mahana and everything East of Kamalo is in excess of twenty minutes. Nothing can be done about the prolonged response time but once the ambulance is en route to either of these areas there are no prehospital advanced life support capabilities for the entire island. The remote nature of some 911 activations on Molokai have seen the on duty MICT be involved with one emergency for hours. A slip and fall at Kawakui with an extremity fracture took an MICT out of service for three hours, an overturned ATV at the top of Kamakou Forest Reserve took over five hours to bring to completion. Halawa valley, Hale O Lono, the Kalaupapa trail, the list of remote locations on Molokai is endless and there is only one crew to manage all of this.

With the current staffing model any of the aforementioned situations that arise will have people waiting for an EMS response without any assurance of timely intervention. There are four fire stations on Molokai; Engine 12 Pukoo, Engine 4 Kaunakakai, Engine 9 Hoolehua, and State Crash at Hoolehua airport. The one ambulance on Molokai must respond to any and all 911 activations as well as all interfacility transfers between Molokai General Hospital and the Molokai airport. Patients returning home to Molokai that are bedridden or unable to ambulate and hospice patients that need transport home to be with family for end of life care have only one option. Every time that this occurs the on duty crew has to coordinate with the sending parties to wait until an on island EMS provider is off duty to take the patients home. On duty crew cannot reliably provide transport to bedridden, non ambulatory, and hospice patients returning to Molokai. All it takes is one 911 emergency to happen and these patients are stuck in an airplane waiting for the ambulance to become available.

An advanced life support Rapid Response Unit staffed with one MICT on the island of Molokai will provide the necessary personnel and equipment to effectively handle multiple 911 emergencies or prolonged events as well as the implementation of a community paramedicine presence. By providing an advanced life support Rapid Response Unit on Molokai the ability to effectively provide timely prehospital EMS care for this community will be realized. I urge the

committee to pass S.B. No. 3248 for the health and well being of all Molokai residents and visitors alike. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:49:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uluhani Waialeale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Welina ke aloha,**

**I, Uluhani Waialeale, write in support of SB 3248 SD1 HD2 that would help appropriate monies from the State to fund an additional ambulance on Molokai. Another ambulance on Molokai will ensure that our island will have the necessary access to quality health and well being in times of emergency. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify in support.**

**Please vote in support of Senate Bill 3248 SD1 HD2.**

**‘O wau iho nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,**

**Uluhani Waialeale**

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 1:58:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matt Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a 44 year old resident of Molokai, a business owner, community volunteer, and family man with 3 children. I was born and raised here and help care for my 101 year old grandma as well as my aging parents.

The Molokai paramedics are amazing. They are quick to arrive, thoughtful, and skilled at their jobs. I have seen them in action many times.

But with only one ambulance team, their resources can be stretched thin when most needed. Molokai's changing demographics reflect a population that is becoming more and more comprised of elderly residents. Now, more than ever before, is an additional ambulance and paramedic crew necessary.

Another benefit is that we are seeing more Molokai born-and-raised residents becoming paramedics. They are setting an example for other young adults to take on the profession and move home. So a secondary positive impact of this bill is creating opportunity for more skilled jobs for Molokai residents.

I support this bill. There is no price on a person's life. Having a second ambulance on Molokai will surely save lives.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Matt Yamashita

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 2:17:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Micheal Romo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Legislators

My name is Micheal Romo, I am a resident of Maui County and a Paramedic. Currently there is only one staffed Paramedic Ambulance on Molokai. When they are assigned a call, there is no second unit to respond, causing that second patient to have to wait for care. Due to the geographic area of the island, this can be an extended wait. A second staffed Paramedic Ambulance would be most beneficial for the residents.

Please vote in support of SB 3248 to fund this resource to serve the residents of Molokai.

To : Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Rep. Patrick Branco  
Rep. Stacelynn Eli  
Rep. Daniel Holt  
Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi  
Rep. Lisa Marten  
Rep. Scott Nishimoto  
Rep. Amy Perruso  
Rep. Jackson Sayama  
Rep. Adrian Tam  
Rep. Chris Todd  
Rep. Tina Wildberger  
Rep. Bob McDermott

From : Henry Lindo Jr, Assistant Chief of Operations  
County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety

Date : March 29, 2022

Re : Support of SB 3248 Relating to Ambulances

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Finance Committee members,

I am providing my testimony in support of the proposed bill to appropriate funds to purchase an advanced life support ambulance and related equipment as well as to pay for related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

As a resident of Molokai and a member of the Department of Fire and Public Safety, I have personally worked alongside our medical emergency services personnel (AMR) on Molokai. On multiple occasions and in order to maintain a continuity of operations to address emergency medical care, our AMR personnel had to make decisions which caused them to split their own two person crew in order to run a second ambulance which consisted of a back up spare unit located at their station being used for operations. As a Captain of the fire crew during those times, I had to make the decision to support the AMR operations by splitting my own crew in order to provide support personnel on the two separate ambulance units. This process allowed us to provide the needed medical service to our community but it also made an uncomfortable situation arise should a fire or other non medical type of emergency have occurred. We were fortunate that no other emergency sprung up with the staffing shortage of fire personnel yet would've done everything to remedy the situation should the need have arisen. We were also fortunate in the past that we had other AMR personnel who lived on Molokai and were available to backfill the back up ambulance when the need arose and we as Fire had to make the decision to support the staffing of the ambulance with our on duty personnel thereby creating a fire staffing shortage.

I am so thankful that I was raised to take care of our community knowing that we have a limited set of resources on island. For a lot of emergencies, we make the call to support operations and community needs over our own operational needs because we believe it is the right thing to do. We are in the times where there are so much more medical response emergencies as compared to other fire related calls on island which is why the amount of training for emergency medical refreshment has increased exponentially over the years. On Molokai, the fire personnel work above the scope of care required for firefighters to assist Medics especially when those multiple calls happen. There are other times when firefighters are on calls and have to wait for a very long time because Medics are in transport or on another call in a different district and may slow the response to other types of emergencies because they are tied up at the scene.

I believe the model of medical response on Molokai is unique due to logistics, limited resources, limited funding and lower count numbers that detract from and paints a muddy picture of the actual happenings in regards to medical response on island. At the same time, the love and care of the first responders in making things happen regardless of policy and guidelines that it makes things seem that there really are no problems or concerns in medical response on Molokai.

I am so very thankful that this bill has made it this far and I believe a lot has to do with each of you and the priority you place in the lives of the people you serve. Molokai may be a small community and in so many ways are never prioritized in the scope of care through out Hawaii but for us who choose to live on Molokai it's an understanding and a decision that we choose knowing that we may very well lose our lives because of the limited amount of medical services on island. Thanks to you there is at least a glimmer of hope and by supporting this bill you are saying that you support the little initiatives that can provide a greater scope of medical care on Molokai that at the very least gives our people a chance.

Thank you for all you do and would greatly appreciate your support in making this bill happen!!

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:04:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda K. Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need more than one ambulance in service at a time. Our island population is growing, as is our need for ambulance service, as well as personnel to man the ambulances. As it is now, if the ambulance is out on a call and another need arises, then a patient needing critical care would have to wait until the ambulance in service is free. Please pass this bill before our ambulance service providers are put in a situation where we have to choose between two critical scenarios. Putting peoples lives at risk.

Thank You

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:05:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clayton Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I've been a resident of Molokai for almost 50 years, (april 1st, 2022 will make 50 years)  
In all the years that I have lived here, our island has always suffered from a lack of adequate ems services available. When the island had a population of 3000, a single ambulance was even then not quite enough to serve the entire island. Now with over 8000 residents, and a growing population of kupuna, a second station or unit would better cover our island. I stand in agreement of a second ambulance. Mahalo

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 4:33:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theodore Tengan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm supporting SB4328 for an advanced life support ambulance, related equipment and State of HI licenses personnel to service the island of Molokai to ensure quality pre-hospital emergent services for Molokai's residents and visitors in a timely manner.

Theodore Tengan



**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 4:34:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alana Ducroix-Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bringing an extra staffed ambulance to the Island of Molokai will become a matter of life or death for many residents on this island. As someone who resides on Molokai and has many severe health problems I understand first hand that one ambulance is not sufficient for an island this size (38 miles long by 10 miles wide) and with this population (Approximately 7000). It is simply not feasible for one ambulance to be at multiple places at once and that means someone or multiple someones will suffer the consequence or worse not come out of their circumstance alive. I support this bill because it is a necessity.

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 5:23:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathan Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3248.

My name is Nate Oshiro and I am currently employed by the Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety as a Fire Captain on the Island of Molokai, where I have lived and worked for the past 20 years. I have been fortunate enough to work at all three Molokai Fire Stations, in all positions, and have thus gained valuable insight on emergency services for the Molokai Community.

The effectiveness of emergency services is dependent on many variables, with TIME and SERVICES provided, being among the most important. Molokai faces considerable challenges for both.

Molokai currently has a single ambulance capable of transport, to service the entire island. This means that anytime there is more than one medical emergency occurring at once, anywhere on the island, there will be an indefinite wait for availability of ambulance services. As a Fire Captain, a very difficult and disheartening part of my job requires me to inform patients that are sick, injured, and scared that the ambulance will not be arriving for a while because they are busy with another emergency. The time it takes for the ambulance to become available from one emergency to another depends on the severity of the calls, and the distances between those calls and the emergency room. The Molokai Fire crews I have served on have remained on scene with patients for up to an hour before the ambulance arrived. Minutes feel like an eternity when human life and well being dangle in the balance.

Anytime an emergency occurs where there are multiple patients, most commonly motor vehicle accidents, but many other types as well, place an enormous challenge on emergency services. Only one treatable patient can be transported at a time, meaning any others requiring emergency treatment / transport will have to wait until the ambulance returns.

Senate Bill 3248 will greatly increase the effectiveness of emergency services on the Island of Molokai. It will increase the services provided by having more personnel on duty and will decrease the amount of time patients will have to wait for advanced care. Simply put, the Bill will ensure more lives are saved. Please support this Bill and make Molokai a safer place.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nate Oshiro

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 8:09:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth Takenouchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a older Resident and parent of a young child , it would give our community more peace of mind knowing we have another ambulance on hand. We have a lot of Residents that are health challenged. So having this emergency resource is one step closer to keeping our community safer.

Mahalo

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 8:41:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katina Soares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**My name is Katina Soares and I am testifying in support of SB3248. As a resident of Molokai all of my childhood and most of my adult life, I have been a recipient of ambulance services including medical flights to off-island facilities over the years. I know firsthand through medical emergencies of my own and family members that a few minutes can literally be the difference between life and death. While our other commendable first responders, namely firemen, are usually the first to respond because they have multiple vehicles and multiple station locations on the island, they lack the capacity, equipment and training to provide advanced medical services. Their purpose is to stabilize and provide care to a patient until ambulance services arrive.**

**Additionally, as a principal charged with the safety of almost 500 students and staff of a school on Molokai, safety, above all, is my primary responsibility. Our school is located about 7 miles west of Kaunakakai (the ambulance station location), which is a 10-15 minute drive to our school. If the ambulance is responding to a call elsewhere it could take longer, and in my experience, has taken significantly longer. Each minute is excruciating, especially when it is a child who is hurt or in pain.**

**Our island may be small in population size but when considering physical size, it takes about 2 hours or more to drive from end to end. With only one ambulance, should a catastrophic incident occur, people will die simply due to the lack of available ambulance response. Please support this vital service, provide safety and equity to the people of Molokai. Mahalo!**

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 8:46:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Gragas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Patrick Gragas 137 Auoli Drive, Makawao, Hawaii. 808-385-1663

I am a MICT/paramedic with American Medical Response stationed in Wailuku but providing testimony as a citizen. Currently serving my 38th year in Emergency Medical Services.

Unlike Lanai, the distance between the west and east end of Molokai is significant. Town of Maunaloa on the west to Halawa Valley on the east is approx. 44 miles. In the rare occasion that the only AMR paramedic, **advanced** life support, ambulance is providing care on one end, leaves the remainder of the island with only, **basic** life support, first responder care provided by Maui County Fire or Maui County Police. Everyone should have reasonable access to advanced life support care in a timely manner. This Senate Bill would responsibly provide such services.

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 9:31:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey T. Giesea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former fire captain on Molokai, I have first-hand experience with how having only one ambulance on the entire island leaves the population vulnerable. There are at least three real concerns that this bill would address:

- 1) Excessive response times to certain parts of the island;
- 2) Not having ALS response available when multiple emergencies are happening at once;
- 3) Insufficient transport and ALS capability for multi-casualty incidents.

For these reasons I whole-heartedly support this bill, and hope our legislators will put public safety first and make it law. Thank you!

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 11:20:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tito Villanueva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge you to support the addition of an advance life support ambulance for the Island of Molokai. This will provide timely emergency medical and trauma response to the visitor and residence.

Thank you for your support.



**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 8:38:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachel Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Rachel Lau and I currently live in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. I am representing myself. I support this bill to appropriate funds which will enable Molokai to have a second ambulance station. I was born and raised on Molokai. I have used the ambulance service there during the birth of my first child in 1991. My mom was transported in 2008 by ambulance and although she did not survive, the need to have another station on island in closer proximity to the other half of the island is crucial. Please help my island community get the coverage and funding they need. Mahalo for allowing me to have this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Malama,

Rachel Lau

Keilyn Leina‘ala Kawakami  
Testimony Commenting In Favor of SB 3284 SD1 HD2  
April 1, 2022 3:00 PM - Room # 308 / Videoconference

Dear Representative Sylvia Luke, Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, and Members on the House Finance Committee:

I am testifying in favor of passing SB 3284 SD1 HD2 that, “Appropriates funds to the department of health to purchase one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment, to be based on the island of Moloka‘i, and pay related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.”

My name is Keilyn Leina‘ala Kawakami and I am a Master’s in Public Health Candidate at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. My concentration is in Health Policy and Management. This semester I am taking two policy-related courses and have learned more about the Hawai‘i State Legislature than I knew before. For an assignment in both courses, we were asked to write a testimony regarding a bill that we were passionate about and that was relevant to public health.

After seeing the story about the singular ambulance manning all of Moloka‘i on KHON 2 News on March 24th, 2022, I knew I had to take a stance and share why I think it is vital that SB 3284 SD1 HD2 is passed. As a member of the Hā Kūpuna (National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders) Research Team, my goal is to improve health and increase life expectancy of our treasured kūpuna (Native Hawaiian elders). Since Moloka‘i’s population is aging fast and it is a rural island, it is critical that policymakers get them the healthcare they deserve and require. Through our team’s recent study [\*The Lives of Native Hawaiian Elders and Their Experiences With Healthcare: A Qualitative Analysis\*](#), we interviewed ten kūpuna residing on neighboring islands, four of them being on Moloka‘i, to learn about their experiences with healthcare, along with barriers to accessing healthcare.

Relevant findings from this study showed that participants: 1) rated their access to specialty care and mental health services as fair (on a scale of poor, fair, good, and excellent); 2) felt like they were not seen as people and they were just a number when it came to healthcare. Although our researchers did not review emergency services, the study still exemplifies the overall need for healthcare on neighboring islands. If we do not equip neighboring islands, like Moloka‘i, with the healthcare services they need to survive, we risk losing a resilient community that strengthens our state.

Not only does Moloka‘i have an aging population, there is also a large percentage of Native Hawaiian residents. Since Native Hawaiians are proven to have a lower life expectancy than other racial and ethnic groups, it is important that we prioritize the Kanaka Maoli communities, especially those living in rural areas who already have less healthcare resources to begin with. By providing an additional ambulance on Moloka‘i, we can prevent deaths or additional health complications caused by emergent cases that would otherwise not be possible. Preventing deaths and additional health complications of the Moloka‘i people through additional emergency care services can mitigate future healthcare expenditures that are preventable.

All in all, I am testifying in favor of passing SB 3284 SD1 HD2 and urge your committee to see the importance of implementing additional emergency services to increase the access to healthcare for the people on Moloka‘i. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

*Keilyn Kawakami*

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health

keilynk@hawaii.edu

**SB-3248-HD-2**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 9:25:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bridget A. Mowat808	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita and Committee Representatives,

I am submitting my testimony in support of SB3248 regarding emergency ambulance services on Molokai. I am asking this committee to support the people of Molokai by providing funds necessary support this very important need.

There is only one ambulance and emergency medical crew servicing the entire island of Molokai. One ambulance service for more than 7,000 residents. This includes an increasing aging population, living alone and very dependent on emergency medical services.

The ambulance and crew are currently stationed in Kaunakakai which is in the middle of the island. Molokai is 38 miles long with one two-lane highway. If calls come in on the east and west side simultaneously, someone has to wait. If our ambulance is dispatched to Halawa, and gets another call from Maunaloa, it could take six hours to respond to the second call. This is unacceptable in a near death situation. (Taken from a quote by Noa Miyamoto, Medical Ambulance Team Leader on Molokai). 70% of the emergency calls are medically related. "Medical emergencies come in simultaneously at least twice a month" per Maui Assistance Fire Chief, Henry Lindo. It would be tragic should two calls are happening simultaneously that need advanced medical care, but we are not able to provide it. There has been many close calls that contributes to much stress to the patient, family members, and EMS.

I ask for your support to vote yes for back up emergency services for Molokai

Mahalo,

Bridget A. Mowat