



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  
RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS  
Hearing Date: 3-15-22 9am Room Number: 329/VideoConf

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funding estimated at \$1,500,000 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 adding another advanced life support ambulance to Molokai increasing the island's number to  
7 two units.

8 The Department of Health currently contracts for emergency medical services on the island of  
9 Molokai. Molokai has one 911 EMS ambulance operating 24/7/365 staffed with one paramedic  
10 and one emergency medical technician. Molokai's resident population has remained stable, from  
11 an estimated 7,345 in 2010 and 7,369 in 2020. Between 2017 and 2021, Molokai had 4,676  
12 EMS 911 ambulance runs. The number of EMS runs has also remained relatively stable since  
13 2017. There were 896 runs in 2017 and 938 in 2021. Over the 5-year period, the median time  
14 between runs was 330 minutes (5.5 hours), one percent (47) of runs had less than 10 minutes  
15 between EMS responses, and three percent (141) of the runs had 10-29 minutes between  
16 responses. Challenges include the fact that pre-hospital personnel numbers are limited. If  
17 passed, additional personnel would be required for Molokai.

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

March 14, 2022

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Adrian Tam, 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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

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

Date: March 15, 2022

Re: Support for SB 3248 SD1 - 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 SD1, 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 SD1.

*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.*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &  
HOMELESSNESS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3248, S.D. 1

**March 15, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Room 329 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, 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.



Clinic  
4590 Hāna Highway  
tel 808.248.8294  
fax 808.248.8917

Administration  
P.O. Box 807  
Hāna, Maui 96713  
tel 808.248.7515  
fax 808.248.7223

March 14, 2022

**TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &  
HOMELESSNESS**

**March 15, 2022; 9:00 am**

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

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Lynn DeCoite  
Representative Linda Clark



March 14, 2022

Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 9 A.M.  
Via Videoconference

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

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Helen Kekalia Wescoatt. I am the Chief Executive Officer of Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC). We are the only Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located on Molokai. 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. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of this bill.**

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 communities, such as Molokai and insure timely access to trauma treatment.

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

*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>*



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>*



**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:53:12 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Sentate

My name is Micheal Romo and I am a resident of Maui County. The need for Paramedic Ambulance service is a vital service for any community. Currently there is one Paramedic Ambulance for the entire island of Molokai. When there are 2 calls simutaneously, the second patient must wait for the ambulance to clear the first patient. This can result in life threatening delays in care. A second ambulance or more Paramedic resources are needed to cover the geographic area as well as the population of Molokai.

Please vote in support of SB 3248 to fund this precious recourse for the residence of Molokai.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:19:31 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanette Logan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3248 SD1 Hearing March 15, 2022

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair and the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

As a resident and nursing student, I strongly support SB3248, the Relating to Ambulances bill. Currently, Molokai maintains only one ambulance and two staff members. Due to the isolation of some community members and the critical time element in providing care, a second-staffed ambulance is vital. The safety net that a second ambulance will provide can help alleviate concerns about multiple patient calls, staff shortages, and even vehicle malfunctions.

As a nursing student, I understand that timely care regarding trauma patients offers the best chance of positive outcomes. One ambulance is not enough to cover their needs if an emergency occurs.

Mahalo and thank you for your time,

Jeanette Logan, SN UH Maui College

Kihei, Hawaii

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:05:51 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3248.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:31:48 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

I'm in support for the addition of an advance life support ambulance for the Island of Molokai. This will provide timely emergency medical and trauma response to the visitors and residents.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:35:52 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

Rep. Ryan Yamane

Rep. Adrian Tam

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Noa Miyamoto, Team Leader Medic 8 Molokai

Monday, March 14, 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. 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 Kawakiu 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 MKK 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 someone 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 additional advanced life support unit on the island of Molokai will provide the necessary personnel and equipment to effectively handle multiple 911 emergencies or prolonged events. By providing a second advanced life support ambulance 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:25:20 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

I have previously testified in support of this bill and am doing so again now. As a resident of Molokai with many health related problems I find it alarming that only two paramedics (one ambulance) work per shift to serve the whole island. The island of Molokai is approximately 38 miles long, to give you a better idea it would take someone the same time to drive from Mana'e to the West side as driving the single road from Honolulu to the North Shore of Oahu. If the ambulance, which is constantly running calls (as can be witnessed by the inhabitants) is responding to an emergency occurring on the East end of the island, it would take the ambulance over an hour to reach another emergency on the West end. That is not acceptable. Not for the safety of the 7,000 plus residents. Insufficiently servicing the community for something as important as this is simply offensive because it is telling us that our lives do not matter enough. I ask you to please pass this bill because it is not a want it is a dire need.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:28:43 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gabrielle Naeole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gabrielle Nae'ole and I am a paramedic in Maui County. I have worked on all 3 populated Islands within Maui County and spend much time working on Moloka'i. Moloka'i is unique to emergency services as it is a very rural community with populations that live on opposite ends of the Island. With a population greater than 6,000 and many of them elderly it is vital to have adequate and reliable emergency services available. I believe that adding an additional ALS unit to this Island is essential to serving this community and will provide additional resources to the current single unit there. Many shifts we have been sent to mass casualty traffic collisions involving more than 1-2 patients and requiring us to call in off duty personnel to assist. We have also been sent to a call on one end of the island when a critical call comes in on the opposite side. This results in a delay in care that negatively affects all involved. No one wants to be the family member being told there is not an ambulance available for your loved one; or to be the paramedic that's purpose is to help their community and know that you were unable to provide life saving skills. Please give Molokai additional resources to better serve their community. They deserve it and as the paramedics who work here, we deserve to know that we are doing the best for the people we love.

Sincerely;

Gabrielle Nae'ole



**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:39:49 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiana Duvauchelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Tiana Duvauchelle, a concerned citizen support another team of ambulance workers on island so that we would have two ambulances operating at all times. My grandmother had to wait to be transported to her final death bed on the one ambulance on island. Not a pleasant experience. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:57:59 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacob Boteilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jacob Boteilho. I am a born and raised Maui resident and over the past 9 years, I've had the honor to provide my community medical support as a Paramedic with AMR Maui County. In the early start to my Paramedic career, I traveled to Molokai once a month to assist with coverage of shifts. During my time on the island, I realized how spread out the community is and how stretch thing the only unit on the island (Medic 8) can become.

Medic 8 is the sole EMS provider on island. Their primary responsibility is to provide 911 response, however, all cases that need to be "transferred" off island via Air Ambulance, will require a transport by the islands only Ambulance. All too common, cases become "stacked" which leads to detrimental delay to care for the community.

What could a second Ambulance provide?

With a second ambulance on island, appropriate coverage will be established and response times to cases will meet what rural response time standards of 15 minutes or less. We as EMS providers not only provide transport to the nearest facility we are able to call in appropriate resources if needed such as the medivac or we may also be used as a vital resource with prevention of illness. Our skills and understanding of health and also preventable life styles changes could be used to help the community and limit its impact on our health care facilities and also insurance providers.

I strongly support this Bill and hope to see another Ambulance unit on the island.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:03:11 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JOSE SAA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support to have a second ambulance for Molokai. Maui County is clearly in need for ambulance to have better respond times to emergencies.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:14:46 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I support SB 3248.

Mahalo nui

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:20:59 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB3248.

Mahalo for your cosideration

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:37:59 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Haytko-Paoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am in full support of SB3248. My husband, Mel Paoa Jr., served as an MICT (Paramedic) on the island of Molokai for over 35 years. There were multiple occasions when the ambulance was responding to a call on the east end of the island when another serious call came in on the west end or in Ho'olehua. Needless to say, one of these calls was not met in a timely way and the health of the patient suffered. A second ambulance has been sorely needed for many years- please fund this measure for the people of Molokai, Mahalo.

**SB-3248-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:10:56 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louise L.inker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We live in a medically underserved community. Although our population is small, we have many sick people living in our community. When covid hit our State, many people were not able to maintain their treatments/health needs. Therefore, people became sicker. Many times the current ambulances are busy and a back up has to called in; sometimes there is no backup.

An up to date ambulance with more medical equip/supplies will allow our MICTs/EMTs a greater opportunity to treat people in a more comprehensive manner while being in contact with the ER medical doctor. Therefore, treatment can begin sooner, and lives can be saved with full recovery.

We need a new, up to date ambulance on Molokai. Our Molokai Community appreciates this, as well as our Health care providers. Please give consideration to passing this bill for our Molokai Community.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for you all do for the people of Molokai, Hawai'i as a whole.