

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Friday, March 17, 2023
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 390, S.D. 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

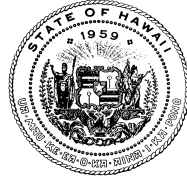
Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to repeal the sunset date of section 2 of Act 119, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, making permanent the requirement that the Board issue licenses in four levels of emergency response practice in counties with a population of five hundred thousand or greater and the creation of an additional licensure category for emergency medical technicians 1 who are certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical technicians but do not provide ambulance services.

The Board supports this bill as it will ensure continued access to care to the consumers of this State. The Board respectfully requests that this measure take effect upon approval. As such, section 3 of the bill should read, "This Act shall take effect upon approval [~~July 1, 2050~~]."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB390 SD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

REP. DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: March 17, 2023

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) takes no position on the repeal of
3 the sunset date of section 2 of Act 119, SLH 2021.

4 Developing the emergency medical response workforce is critical for the resilience and peace of
5 mind of Hawaii's communities, and emergency medical transportation goes hand-in-hand.

6 Therefore, the department respectfully request an amendment with regard to emergency medical
7 services (EMS) air ambulances.

8 DOH is responsible for ground EMS statewide and contracts with counties and vendors to ensure
9 the availability of these services, but there is currently no mechanism to ensure the availability of
10 air ambulances. For air ambulance, no DOH license, certificate of need, or contract is required
11 to operate. Relying on the marketplace creates a risk for disruption of service as occurred
12 following the tragic Hawaii Life Flight incident in December 2022.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

14 **Offered Amendments:**

15 SECTION 1. Act 119, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, is
16 amended by amending section 13 to read as follows:

1 "SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1,
2 2021[; ~~provided that section 2 shall be repealed on July~~
3 ~~1, 2027~~]."

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 funds \$ to be expended by the Department of
6 Health to increase the predictability and stability of
7 available air ambulance services for all islands in the
8 State of Hawaii.

9 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is
10 bracketed and stricken.

11 SECTION [~~3.~~] 4. This Act shall take effect on July
12 1, 2050.
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