



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1245 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO AMBULANCES.**

SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEAS

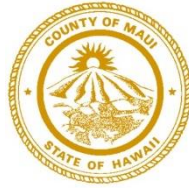
Hearing Date: March 31, 2023

Room Number: 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified appropriation amount.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports HB1245 HD1 SD1 as
- 3 drafted.
- 4 DOH requested amendments to this measure to open a conversation about improving the
- 5 resilience of Hawaii's air ambulance network, particularly following the tragedy of the Life
- 6 Flight accident in December 2022. Discussions with stakeholders is ongoing and promising.
- 7 DOH does not wish to jeopardize the appropriation for an ambulance and crew for Central Maui,
- 8 but respectfully requests passage of this critical measure as drafted which will permit more time
- 9 to refine the air ambulance proposal.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 11 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.
- 12

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

March 29, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor

**DATE:** March 29, 2023

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB1245 HD1, SD1, RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to purchase one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in the central Maui area of the County of Maui, and to fund pay-related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Central Maui has experienced substantial population growth that warrants additional emergency services, and the area would benefit significantly from the addition of an advanced life-support ambulance, related equipment, and personnel.
2. This measure would help reduce death and disability among visitors and residents by ensuring timely response to 911 emergency calls.
3. This measure is consistent with the Maui Island Plan policy 4.6.1f: "Encourage expansion and improved access to emergency care in all communities."

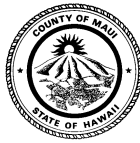
For the foregoing reasons, I offer my **SUPPORT** of this measure.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



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 29, 2023

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 31, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1245, HD1, SD1, RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the purchase of an advanced life-support ambulance and related equipment to be based in Central Maui, fund pay-related costs for State-certified emergency medical services personnel, and appropriate funds to increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in the State.

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. Central Maui's population has significantly increased to nearly 55,000 – a 9% increase in the last decade, which warrants additional emergency services.
2. An additional ambulance would help reduce death and disability among visitors and residents by ensuring timely response to 911 emergency calls.
3. This measure is consistent with Maui Island Plan policy 4.6.1.f: "Encourage expansion and improved access to emergency care in all communities."

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



*Maui Hotel & Lodging*  
ASSOCIATION

**LATE**

Testimony of  
Lisa H. Paulson  
Executive Director  
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
**House Bill 1245 HD1 SD1: Relating to Ambulances**

March 31, 2023, 9:45 am  
Conference Room 211

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 180 property and allied business members and 22,000 employees. **MHLA supports House Bill 1245 HD1 SD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to purchase of one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in central Maui, fund pay-related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel, and increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in the State.

Maui would benefit significantly from adding an advanced life-support ambulance, related equipment, and personnel (one emergency medical technician and one paramedic). An additional ambulance would help reduce death and disability among visitors and residents by responding promptly to 911 emergency calls. There have been multiple occasions where responding units come from outlying districts to assist the growing call volume resulting in longer response times for both the outlying area where no ambulance is available and the area of demand, which can, unfortunately, lead to poor patient outcomes.

Additionally, MHLA is very supportive of the recent amendment suggesting an additional appropriation to the Department of Health to increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in the State

For the reasons stated above, **MHLA supports House Bill 1245 HD1 SD1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-1245-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:20:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William Bailey      | Testifying for AMR  | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

In strong support of the needed ambulance for Central Maui. Also in support of the State's desire for support of the inter-island air ambulance services using 911 helicopter resources.

**HB-1245-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:41:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                              | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| jamie pagan         | Testifying for Maui County Paramedic Association | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing today to testify in **STRONG** support of all bills regarding expansion of ambulance services in the neighbor islands, specifically today, Maui County.

I have worked in Maui's EMS system for 20 years, noting increased call volume, yet lack of expanded services for our residents and visitors. The last transport addition to Maui county was in 2003. The call volume has since doubled, causing increased response times and 911 calls being held for 10 plus minutes until an ambulance can become available. I have witnessed poor outcomes, including deaths, that may have been prevented with just the addition of one more ground transport unit, specifically in Central Maui, where we have only 1 transport ambulance, yet the largest local and probably aging population.

I would also like to speak as to the expanded role of air medical services via rotor (helicopter). I assist, fly and am a provider with the Maui Medevac program. It has potential to play a much larger role in the Maui EMS system if we could fund a dedicated crew. The current model takes a much needed ground crew off line to run the service when it is called upon, leaving Maui County with even less resources.

I am humbly asking that all such committee members continue to support our neighbor island and fund a Central Maui ground ambulance and also a dedicated crew for the Maui Medevac, that of recent, has provided expanded scope to the entire state in its time of aeromedical transport needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jamie Pagan

MICT, MCPA secretary/treasurer, LPN

**HB-1245-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:30:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please accept this testimonoy in support of HB1245.

Thank you for your consideration.