



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0791
RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

REP./SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA CHAIR
HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: Feb. 13, 2023

Room Number: 225

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 (DOH) appreciates the intent of S.B. 0791.
6 Between 2000 – 2020, the population of Molokai has remained steady averaging around 7,350
7 (DBEDT Census 2020). Between 2017 – 2022, Molokai EMS averaged 952 ambulance
8 dispatches annually. The average time between each call was 522 minutes (8.7 hours), with a
9 median time of 298 minutes (4.9 hours). Calls may come in closer together. Annually,
10 approximately 61 (6%) requests for ambulance services were received less than 10 minutes apart.

11 Although the bill as written appropriates \$1.5 million for a second ambulance for Molokai, the
12 FY23 price is \$1.6 million (includes cost of living and collective bargaining increases). Although
13 the number of transports and interval between calls is relatively low, having a backup ambulance
14 and crew available 24/7/365 may be justified based on transport needs.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 **Offered Amendments:**

17 None

1 622 ambulance dispatches excluding interfacility transfers, and
2 The average time between each call was 820 minutes (13.6 hours), with a median time of 550
3 minutes (9.1 hours) during this time period.
4 Median Difference: 298 minutes (4.9 hours). Average Difference: 522 minutes (8.7 hours)
5 64% (3,667 calls) of the time differences between successive dispatches were 180 minutes (3
6 hours) or longer.
7 Differences < 10 minutes (6% of calls) 365 calls over 6 years.
8 Differences between 10 and 29 minutes (4% of calls) 283 calls over 6 years. **(BRIEF)**
9 (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/census/census_2020/data/redistricting/PLtable1_2020-island.pdf).
10 7,404 7,345 7,369

February 13, 2023

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, HHS Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, HHS Vice-Chair
State Senate, Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB 791 – Making an Appropriation for Ambulance Service for Moloka'i

Dear Senators:

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-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:17:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Lightfoot	Testifying for American Medical Response (AMR Ambulance)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Molokai has been advocating for this ambulance for many years. We stand with Molokai in strong support of SB791. Thank you for continuing to support Molokai emergency medical services.

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:05:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tito Villanueva	Testifying for American Medical Response	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

My name is Tito Villanueva, Kauai AMR Operations Manager, I respectfully supports SB 791, which makes an appropriation for a second ambulance unit on Moloka'i.

Additional ambulance on Moloka'i is to serve as a "safety net" for the community when the primary ambulance is on a 911 call, when the primary ambulance is on an interfacility call, and to back up the primary ambulance when there are multiple patients.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 791.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

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

Date: February 13, 2023

Re: Testimony in support for SB791: Relating to Ambulances

The Queen's Health System (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 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff 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 791, 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. 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 791.

The mission of The Queen's Health System 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-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:26:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Rose	Testifying for MauiCounty Paramedics Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Molokai's growing community needs expanded ambulance services. Molokai has 2 fire stations that serve the community. It is time to add a much needed ambulance station.

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:12:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Lightfoot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank for supporting Molokai. Emergency ambulance service is an improtant service for Molokai. Please accept this testimony in support of SB791.

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:31:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Musick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB791. Currently, with only a single ambulance located on the Island of Moloka'i and the island's geographical isolation, any additional EMS resources will be great for the community as well as any visitors to the island.

Joshua Musick

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:05:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Hue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB791 which would provide an additional ambulance for the island of Moloka'i. I feel it would improve overall response times and patient care. Maui county already struggles with a limited number of medics/EMS providers. Please do this to help the Moloka'i community by providing them with the tools they need so that they can have efficient care provided for their loved ones when it is needed most.

Mahalo

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:12:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shardae Rawlins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Moloka'i and am a graduate of 'O Hina I Ka Malama the Hawaiian Language Immersion program at Moloka'i High School. I left Moloka'i in 2018 to pursue a career in the EMS field at Kapi'olani Community College as an Emergency Medical Technician, in hopes of one day returning to my island home Moloka'i to serve my community and the people that I care about. As a resident, and now employee of Moloka'i, Medic 8, I strongly support S.B. No. 791, Relating to Ambulances.

The Moloka'i community will greatly benefit from the addition of an Advanced life support Ambulance in that it would reduce call response times to and from the station to the scene and hospital. Moloka'i currently has only one Ambulance to service the entire island and it can be a struggle. It takes us approximately 30 minutes to respond to Murphy's Beach (East), and Maunaloa town (West). If we could respond within 10 minutes or less, the chances of survival grow exponentially.

I humbly ask for the committee to please consider, and pass S.B. No. 791, Relating to Ambulances. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Medic 8, Moloka'i.

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:51:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miken Staubitser (Souza)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a paramedic for Maui County, I support this bill

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:28:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelseamay Pupuhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am nurse and resident on the island of Molokai. I am in full support of SB791. Our island desperately needs another ambulance to support our rural island. One ambulance is no where near enough to support the many residents that utilize this service. Being that our island has so many people with chronic diseases, another ambulance is sorely needed in the event of emergency. One ambulance is simply not enough to accommodate our island.

LATE

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:34:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Hawana Blackburn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Patrick Hawana Blackburn and I support SB791 with regards to adding another ambulance for Molokai. I am a Captain with the Maui Fire Dept, Pukoo station. Being stationed on the east end, we understand that response times will be between 15-20 minutes or longer due to the fact that the Ambulance is coming from Kaunakakai. If unfortanetly they are on another call, the wait time for patients needing advanced medical care grows exponentially. With all medical calls, seconds and minutes matter. The people of Molokai deserve another Ambulance unit capable of providing advanced care and transport. I support this bill. I hope you do too. Mahalo for your time!

Patrick Hawana Blackburn

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:16:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Arcinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my support for SB791.

With Molokai's unique geographical area, there are times when an ambulance is needed for patients that live on opposite sides of the island, making it difficult for the crew to get to them on time. With an extra unit, they would have a better response time and give the care they need for their community.

SB-791

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:50:29 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
douglas vant groenewout	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please move forward with this very necessary and needed addition to the prehospital treatment of the people of hawaii. granting this is a very important first step in taking care of the people of hawaii in generations to come. malao for your work and time