

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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

KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKOLE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3126 SD1  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.**

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

REP. CHRIS TODD, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: March 19, 2024

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$18M general fund appropriation for comprehensive statewide air  
2 ambulance backup program. However, multiple variations and configurations will reduce cost.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB3126 SD1,  
4 which is part of the Governor's Administrative Package, and continues to work with public and  
5 private stakeholders to refine the concepts. While many details remain, DOH believes that  
6 keeping SB3126 SD1 alive acknowledges the value of a statewide air ambulance capability,  
7 positively affects the public policy conversation, and stimulates county interest in this measure or  
8 a public-private partnership variation.

9 Background

10 The State of Hawaii is serviced by one private sector air ambulance provider, down from two as  
11 market conditions forced the exit of a provider in 2022. In November 2022, a tragic accident  
12 disrupted interisland transport of patients from remote and rural settings to healthcare facilities  
13 for almost six months. Although commercial airlines sometimes transport patients, the  
14 commercial carriers are not equipped for advanced life support patients. If the private air  
15 ambulance service is down, few alternatives are available for sick patients.

16

1 General Concept

2 DOH asserts that the risk to life safety is untenable with only one air ambulance service provider  
3 and proposes a comprehensive statewide air ambulance back-up and resiliency program to  
4 provide a second line of defense behind the market-based air ambulance network. This backup  
5 network may be totally or partially contracted with the private sector, or preferably, as a  
6 comprehensive statewide public/private partnership, and create a greater degree of parity to  
7 ground ambulance service, a critical public safety and health policy authorized by the Legislature  
8 decades ago that puts Hawaii's residents in proximity to a 24/7 911 ground ambulance service.

9 The public/private comprehensive statewide air ambulance back-up and resiliency program may  
10 be tailored to meet unique needs of rural counties, but shares certain core components:

- 11 • \$18M for acquisition of new twin-engine state-of-the-art helicopters funded by the State,  
12 including parts and maintenance, through a long-term lease-to-own agreement.
- 13 • County or State funding of maintenance, air, and medical personnel, as well as  
14 infrastructure such as flight hangars.
- 15 • Helicopters, though the property of the lease holder, the State of Hawaii, that are  
16 deployed to the counties who may in turn operate for non-medical missions such as  
17 search and rescue, fire suppression, and law enforcement.
- 18 • Coordination with local health systems to negotiate sustainable reimbursement rates, as  
19 well as subsidies and sponsorships.

20 These costs will be recurring, so this is a long-term investment in Hawaii's healthcare  
21 infrastructure, but one that will most certainly save lives.

22 In addition to pilots, flight nurses, and flight medics a comprehensive statewide air ambulance  
23 back-up and resiliency program will require logistical support staff to implement and manage the  
24 program.

25 Early feedback on this proposal from first responders and hospitals has been encouraging and has  
26 corroborated the need for statewide air ambulance back-up system. Many more details need to

- 1 be discussed, including how the program participants and stakeholders may share in the costs to
- 2 maintain these assets. Nevertheless, DOH respectfully requests the Legislature to keep SB3126
- 3 SD1 moving as stakeholders work towards consensus.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR



### Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

**House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

**House Committee on Transportation**

March 19, 2024; 11:00 AM

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

In consideration of

### **Senate Bill 3126 SD1 Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services**

Honorable Chair Belatti, Honorable Chair Todd, and Members of the Committees:

The County of Kaua'i submits comments on SB 3126 SD1 which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000; requires cost-sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and The County of Hawai'i, County of Kaua'i, and County of Maui; authorizes deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund; requires rulemaking; declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded; and makes an appropriation.

In light that existing aeromedical services provided by the existing fixed-wing aircraft under certain circumstances might not be available or there is backlog or significant delay, the County of Kaua'i supports the concept of having a backup aeromedical rotary-wing aircraft which may also be utilized for fire suppression of wildfires.

We appreciate the source of additional means to strengthen our wildfire suppression arsenal. However, some situations are unclear. If a medical emergency transport and a wildfire occur simultaneously, how will the priority be determined?

SB3126 SD1, which would disperse to the Counties fifty percent proportionately based on billed amounts, asserts the Maui model that provides aeromedical service as supported by Act 213, Session Laws of 2007, is suitable to meet the needs of the State. The February 2024 Department of Health Annual Report on the Receipt and Expenditure from the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund does not clearly identify the amount disbursed as reimbursement for emergency medical services to Maui County.

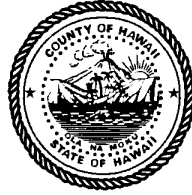
In 2021, Maui County's population of 164,221 more than doubled Kaua'i County's population of 73,454 which begets the question whether the model is suitable for a county with half the population. With this disparity in population size, we have concerns regarding the cost our County will bear for the operations of the rotary-wing aircraft including the pilots, mechanics, flight nurses, flight paramedics, and dispatch operators, and whether the Maui model can support the needs for Kaua'i.

We look forward to the continued conversation with a broader perspective from stakeholders at the table including hospital and medical professionals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Deanna Sako**  
*Managing Director*



**Kazuo S. K. L. Todd**  
*Fire Chief*

**Eric H. Moller**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

March 14, 2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB3126 HD2 FROM HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Aloha Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to you as the Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department (HFD), a comprehensive emergency services provider for the Island of Hawaii, which encompasses critical roles in fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), rescue operations, hazardous materials response, and ocean safety. Our dedicated team serves a vast and diverse geographic area, often facing unique challenges that stem from our island's remote locations and the distribution of medical resources.

The bill S.B. No. 3126, which proposes the establishment of an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program, represents a pivotal step towards addressing a critical gap in our healthcare delivery system, especially for the rural and remote communities of our island and neighboring counties. The disparities in access to immediate and advanced medical care are not just logistical challenges; they are matters of life and death.

The Hawaii Fire Department (HFD), through its extensive experience in responding to emergencies across the island, recognizes the immense value that such a program would bring. The bill's proposal to enhance the infrastructure for emergency aeromedical services, inspired by the successful model in Maui County, aligns with our mission to improve patient outcomes through swift and efficient medical intervention.

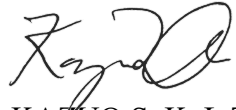
Emergency situations, such as heart attacks, strokes, and severe injuries, require prompt specialized care that is often not available in rural areas. The current limitation of having only one interisland aeromedical provider has been a significant bottleneck in our ability to provide the highest level of care to all residents, irrespective of their geographic location. Establishing a partnership program as outlined in S.B. No. 3126 would not only increase the resilience of our emergency medical system but also ensure that critical care is accessible when and where it is needed most.

In my capacity as Fire Chief and on behalf of the Hawaii Fire Department, I wholeheartedly support S.B. No. 3126. I urge the legislature to recognize the profound impact this bill will have on the health and safety of our communities. By facilitating more effective emergency medical responses, we are not just improving a system; we are saving lives and safeguarding the well-being of our people.



I extend my deepest mahalo for considering this endorsement and for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of the residents of Hawaii. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those we are sworn to protect.

With warmest aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo S. K. L. Todd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kazuo" being the most prominent part.

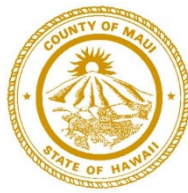
KAZUO S. K. L TODD  
Fire Chief

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

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief

**GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA**  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732

[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Committee on Health & Homelessness  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 420  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 443  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairs Au Bleatti and Todd,

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 3126, SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department and I am writing in support of SB 3126, SD 1, Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to assist in transporting patients from County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and County of Maui.

An Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program would greatly benefit patients on neighbor islands when they need transportation to hospitals on the island of Oahu. There have been several medical cases in the past where direct transport from the scene to an area hospital in Honolulu would have improved the outcome of the patient. In our field we can never put a value on a life and a program like this is sure to improve the survivability of patients in Maui County. This program would provide an immense increase in medical service to the islands of Molokai and Lanai along with rural Hana. Expedited advanced medical care will make all the difference in our kupuna who have strokes, trauma incidents and cardiac emergencies. The Department of Fire & Public Safety support SB 3126, SD 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Fire Chief at (808) 270-7561.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura".

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief



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  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

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

March 18, 2024

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness  
  
The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Transportation

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 19, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3126, SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES**

I support this measure to establish the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program.

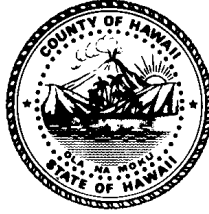
I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Maui County includes three populated islands with remote, rural communities, making prompt access to emergency health care challenging.
2. Creating the emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program will help reduce the risk of death and serious injury among visitors and residents by ensuring rapid response to medical emergencies.
3. Maui County's medevac service is cited as a suitable model for the cost-sharing aspect of the measure, and additional, reliable, aeromedical transport service is essential.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba**  
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280  
Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 15, 2024

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair  
Rep. Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB3126 relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services  
Hearing: March 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to express support for this measure that would establish an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health for the Counties, and would authorize deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund.

The importance of SB3126 is clear, as it emphasizes the importance of better care for critical need patients, and is a crucial initiative to enhance emergency medical services in Hawaii, which will have significant and positive impacts on public health and safety.

I strongly urge you to pass SB3126.

Sincerely,

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DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member  
District 8, North Kona



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Transportation

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: March 19, 2024

Re: Support for SB3126 SD1 – Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services

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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 SB3126 SD1, which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000. Our most vulnerable and high risk patients deserve a reliable interisland aeromedical service provider in the event of an emergency. We have observed patients from neighbor island facilities, including Molokai General Hospital and North Hawai'i Community Hospital, with serious medical conditions ranging from complicated pregnancies to cardiovascular failure in desperate need of medical attention having to wait to be airlifted and treated on Oahu. With only a single service provider in a State that experiences on average 2,500 air ambulance trips per year, a more stable and reliable solution is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB3126 SD1.

*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.*

Tuesday, March 19, 2024; 11:00 am  
Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

**House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**House Committee on Transportation**

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Darius Kila, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 3126, SD1  
Relating To Emergency Aeromedical Services**

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My name is Michael Robinson and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

**I write in support of SB 3126, SD1** which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health (DOH) in counties with a population of less than 500,000. The measure also proposes cost sharing for the program operations and maintenance, and revenue sharing between the State and the counties of Hawai'i, Kauai and Maui.

Emergency aeromedical services or air ambulances play a crucial role in transporting a critically ill patient from the neighbor islands to Oahu for treatment. Understanding some of the challenges involved with air ambulance services, an overlapping, possibly redundant, safety net of similar services may be beneficial. Such a partnership may lead to positive outcomes, and HPH is open to continued discussions on this subject.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 19, 2024

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Transportation

Re: SB 3126 SD1– RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES

Dear Chair Belatti, Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Vice Chair Kila, and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3126 SD1, which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000 and requires cost-sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and the County of Hawai‘i, County of Kauai, and County of Maui while authorizing deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and require rulemaking.

HMSA supports the legislature’s efforts to ensure that neighbor island residents who face a serious medical event, will be able to access timely treatments should they need to receive care off island. We understand that this is a complex issue, and we would appreciate the committees’ consideration of moving the bill to further this discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Quality Healthcare For All"*

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**

**Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair**  
**Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Representative Chris Todd, Chair**  
**Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair**

March 19, 2024  
11:00 AM  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 329 & Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Support of SB 3126, SD1**  
**RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES**

Establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000. Requires cost-sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and the County of Hawai'i, County of Kauai, and County of Maui. Authorizes deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund. Requires rulemaking. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 12/31/2050.

Edward N. Chu  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of SB 3126, SD1, Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services.**

Emergency aeromedical services or air ambulances play a crucial role in transporting a critically ill patient from the neighbor islands to Oahu for treatment. For those situations where such aeromedical services are necessary, every second counts toward saving lives, and providing more resources for such services are something that our residents on the neighbor islands deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:44:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clayton McGhan	HHSC- West Hawaii Region	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB3126, a crucial piece of legislation that holds the promise of significantly bolstering the health and safety of our citizens. This bill represents a substantial investment in our community's well-being by providing essential resources for the operation of aeromedical transport—a service that has the potential to save countless lives.

It is imperative to recognize that outer island patients, often faced with limited access to specialized medical care, deserve and require this critical service. By allocating funds toward the operation of aeromedical transport, SB3126 addresses an urgent need and underscores our commitment to ensuring equitable access to life-saving medical interventions for all community members.

Sincerely,  
Clayton McGhan, MHA  
HHSC- West Hawaii Region

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:40:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiffany Lightfoot	Global Medical Response	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you to the Committee on Health and Homelessness and Committee on Transportation for hearing SB3126 SD1 relating to emergency aeromedical services. We are in **strong support** of SB3126 SD1 relating to emergency aeromedical services.

Global Medical Response owns and operates Hawai'i Life Flight, REACH, Guardian Flight, and AirMed International. Hawai'i Life Flight and REACH are the primary aeromedical providers serving Hawai'i. Global Medical Response also owns and operates American Medical Response (AMR) in Hawai'i for ground transportation. REACH and AMR continue to operate Maui MedEvac as one team. This model, as identified by SB3126 SD1, serves as an excellent model for Hawai'i statewide.

The Maui Medevac model is a great example of a public (State and County)-private (AMR and REACH) partnership and collaboration. This EMS model has worked for 20 years to service rural Maui County and has proven to be an effective redundancy for our statewide aeromedical system. We, GMR, are supportive of a public-private collaboration.

Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in **strong support** of SB3126 SD1.





*Helping Those Who Help All Of Us*

To the Honorable Senators Chris Lee Chair.

Lorraine Inouye Vice-Chair.

Maile Shimabukuro and Lynn DeCoite

My name is Laura Mallery-Sayre and I am the Executive Director of the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation, Inc., a 501 (C) 3 public, volunteer non-profit with the mission to save lives in Hawai'i. For the past 26 years, this Foundation has, with the support of our amazing community donors, raised over \$30 Million to provide life-saving equipment and training to the Hawaii Fire Department including 14 fire trucks, an Airbus H125 EMS helicopter, water safety craft, rescue boards, AEDs, long-range communication systems, rescue ropes, underwater communication systems and a rescue boat to name a few. We have secured funding and made the down payment for the purchase of an Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter, scheduled to arrive in December of 2025. The primary purpose of this aircraft is to provide critical care transport directly from Hawaii Island Hospitals to the trauma centers in Honolulu if time is of an essence and if a Life-flight transport is unavailable, delayed or deemed too dangerous for transport. We have been assured that this transport can take from 1½ hours to 2 hours depending on the location of the Big Island hospital as opposed to a fixed wing transport of up to 7 to 8 hours which requires multiple ambulance exchanges for transport. Such was the case with our dear friend Danny Akaka who collapsed from a major brain bleed at 9:10 in the morning and did not arrive at Queen's until 5:15 PM. During this 8 hour delay, his stroke expanded and his recovery was compromised. SB3126 will help to change this time response and provide better care for our critical need patients. We STRONGLY SUPPORT this Bill and urge you to pass it.

Operational support for these EMS helicopters is critical right now as we prepare for the delivery of the H145 and should not be delayed. The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation is poised to be one of your public partners in the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program. We have already expanded our support to the Maui Fire Department and are working with Chief Brad Ventura, the Maui County Council and Mayor to assist Maui in the purchase of essential Tanker Fire Trucks. We would be happy to assist Maui and Kauai as we move forward with this life-saving program.

[mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com)

808.325.5456  
Fax: 808.325.7516

[info@DanielSayreFoundation.com](mailto:info@DanielSayreFoundation.com)  
[www.DanielSayreFoundation.com](http://www.DanielSayreFoundation.com)  
*We are a 501 (C) 3 non profit organization*

PO Box 1285  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745



March 16, 2024

RE: Testimony - YES -Hawaii State Legislative Bill SB3126-SD1  
To Whom it may concern:

Aloha Honorable Hawaii State Legislature Members,

My name is Kelly Fliar and 44-year resident of Hawaii. As the event manager, I represent the PGA Tour Champions annual season-opener, the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai which is televised worldwide on the Golf Channel. On behalf of our players, over 400 Island of Hawaii volunteers and management team, we fully support Hawaii State Legislative Bill SB3126-SDI with a resounding YES.

The Daniel R. Sayre Foundation has been an official charity partner of our tournament since 2010. We have witnessed the amazing life saving miracles resulting from the efforts put forth by Frank and Laura Mallery-Sayre and their dedicated "All-Volunteer" 501 C-3 team. We also commend the Sayre's for their passionate support of this initiative.

This opportunity to provide neighbor island strategic transportation assets will guarantee to save lives. Time is of the essence to vote a resounding YES, just as it is to save a precious life.

Mahalo to all members for your thoughtful consideration of my testimony and mahalo to the Daniel R.Sayre Foundation and their dedicated volunteers .

Kelly Fliar  
Tournament Manager  
864 Mahealani St  
Kihei, HI 96753  
808 870-2755



CHAMPIONS

PGA TOUR Champions ·  
Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai  
100 PGA Tour Boulevard  
Phone: 800.566.5400 · Website: [www.pgatour.com/mec](http://www.pgatour.com/mec)



March 15, 2024

Representative Della Au Bellatti, Chair  
Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Legislature

### **Support for SB3126 SD1**

Dear Chair Bellatti, Chair Todd, and Members of the Committees on Health and Homelessness and Transportation,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3126 SD1, establishing an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program with the Department of Health and the counties of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island.

There is an immense need for critical infrastructure, equipment, and most importantly ongoing operational support for emergency medical services on the neighbor islands. That is why our association donated the land and floated the bonds to construct the County of Hawaii's fire and emergency operations facility on the Kohala Coast between Mauna Kea and Mauna Lani Resorts 25 years ago, and why we've been long-term supporters of the Daniel L. Sayre Foundation, which helps to leverage private donations to purchase emergency and safety equipment for our first responders.

Legislative support for this Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program is critical. We need to secure operational funding for a new Airbus H145 that the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation will be gifting to Hawaii County Fire Department in December of 2025. The funds to purchase this \$16,000,000 medical helicopter have all been raised from private donors, including more than \$400,000 from our Kohala Coast Resort Association members.

This helicopter has the potential of saving countless lives, because every second is crucial when dealing with critically ill patients. Instead of the 7-8 hours that patients currently experience with ambulance rides from the hospital to the airport, the flight between airports on fixed wing aircraft, then the transfer to another ambulance at the Honolulu airport and the ride to an Oahu hospital, the helicopter will provide point-to-point direct transport from hospital to hospital in 1.5 hours! This helicopter can also be used for nighttime rescues and emergency transport, as our fixed wing aircraft cannot.

Because the County of Hawaii will be receiving this H145 helicopter within a year and a half, we need to start the operational program as soon as possible, in order to have all of the certification and training completed by the time the aircraft arrives. That is why your funding of this measure this session is so crucial. It will help build our emergency resilience, a need we all feel more acutely since this summer's devastating fires on Maui and Hawaii Island.

Members of the Kohala Coast Resort Association pay more than \$40 million in TAT and \$40 million in GET to the state each year. We believe the investment of these resources from the general fund will not only benefit the 5,000 employees and their 20,000 family members on Hawaii Island, but also the 1.6 million visitors who come to our island each year. Mahalo for your support of SB3126 SD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director



March 15, 2024

Representative Della Au Bellatti, Chair  
Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: Support for SB3126 SD1

Dear Chair Bellatti, Chair Todd, and Members of the Committees on Health and Homelessness and Transportation,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3126 SD1, establishing an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program with the Department of Health and the counties of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island.

There is an immense need for critical infrastructure, equipment, and most importantly ongoing operational support for emergency medical services on the neighbor islands. Our resort is a supporter of the Daniel L. Sayre Foundation, which helps to leverage private donations to purchase emergency and safety equipment for our first responders.

Legislative support for this Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program is critical. We need to secure operational funding for a new Airbus H145 that the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation will be gifting to Hawaii County Fire Department in December of 2025. The funds to purchase this \$16,000,000 medical helicopter have all been raised from private donors, including more than \$400,000 from our Kohala Coast Resort Association of which we are a member and contributed funds from our resort.

This helicopter has the potential of saving countless lives, because every second is crucial when dealing with critically ill patients. Instead of the 7-8 hours that patients currently experience with ambulance rides from the hospital to the airport, the flight between airports on fixed wing aircraft, then the transfer to another ambulance at the Honolulu airport and the ride to an Oahu hospital, the helicopter will provide point-to-point direct transport from hospital to hospital in 1.5 hours! This helicopter can also be used for nighttime rescues and emergency transport, as our fixed wing aircraft cannot.



**MAUNA KEA**  
RESORT

Because the County of Hawaii will be receiving this H145 helicopter within a year and a half, we need to start the operational program as soon as possible, in order to have all of the certification and training completed by the time the aircraft arrives. That is why your funding of this measure this session is so crucial. It will help build our emergency resilience, a need we all feel more acutely since this summer's devastating fires on Maui and Hawaii Island.

Mahalo for your support of SB3126 SD1.

Sincerely,

Craig Anderson  
Vice President of Operations

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Transportation

From: Tricia Buskirk, President & CEO, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union

Date: March 15, 2024

Re: Support for SB3126 – Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services

Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit, federally insured financial institution owned by its 47,000 members with branches in Hilo, Honokaa, Kailua-Kona, Kaloko, Kealahou, and Kohala. HCFCU provides a wide range of services including mortgage, land, construction, and small business loans, as well as education and personal loans. Additionally, we offer auto loans, checking and savings accounts, drive-up tellers, credit and debit cards with rewards, online and mobile banking, investment services, and youth programs. HCFCU also supports numerous Hawaii Island non-profit organizations and community events.

At the heart of HCFCU is a devotion to community service and lifting up our neighbors whenever possible. In this spirit of community care, HCFCU appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of Senate Bill 3126**. This bill is critically important in bolstering the aeromedical program for our state. The provisions outlined in SB3126 are vital steps towards enhancing the safety and well-being of our community, ensuring prompt and efficient emergency medical response when it is needed most.

The proposed program outlined in this bill is a game-changer for our entire state, enhancing our capacity to provide critical care and timely transport for patients in need. Unlike fixed-wing aircraft, which often entail significant delays of 7 to 8 hours, the H145 helicopter could reduce transport times to Queens Medical Center to just 1½ to 2 hours. This swift response time can be pivotal in emergencies, potentially circumventing the need for multiple ambulance transfers by directly transporting patients from our hospitals to designated heliports.

Moreover, the H145's capability for nighttime rescues will significantly enhance emergency medical services throughout our state. By expediting transport and expanding operational capabilities, this helicopter will be a crucial asset in safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities.

HCFCU recognizes the profound impact SB3126 will have on enhancing first responders' ability to deliver critical care across Hawaii. We ask you to consider the invaluable benefits this legislation offers in terms of enhancing emergency response, reducing patient transport times, and ultimately, saving lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB3126.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:50:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Godoy	Friends of First Responders	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am writing in support of Bill SB3126 that would provide much needed funding and services to support the new Airbus H145 being donated to the County of Hawaii by the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation. I support this bill both as an individual citizen of the Big Island and on behalf of Friends of First Responders a non-profit that is committed to the health and wellness of first responders and their families.

As a private citizen that depends on emergency medical services and resides on another island - this is a critical service that will definitely save lives. Studies show that shortening the response time and getting critically injured patients to critical care facilities quickly greatly improves chances for survival and recovery.

As a Chaplain that works with first responders, better equipping our first responders with adequate equipment greatly improves chances for a favorable outcome and reduces their stress when responding to life threatening situations.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill and demonstrate your commitment to the emergency medical needs of our island citizens and our heroic first responders as well.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Chaplain Renee Godoy

Founder/President of Friends of First Responders

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:01:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Matsunaga	Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii supports SB 3126 SD1



TO: State House Committee on Health & Homelessness - Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and Members

TO: State House Committee on Transportation - Rep. Chris Todd, Chair, Rep. Darius Kila, Vice Chair, and Members

FR: Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team

RE: SUPPORT for SB3126 SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES - Hearing @ 11AM, Tues., March 19, 2024

MAHALO for scheduling this hearing and please expedite passage of SB 3126 SD1 to create an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to significantly improve emergency healthcare response time for the people of the rural/remote Counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i.

This program would complement what is currently a single service medical transport provider in our State that experiences on average 2,500 air ambulance trips per year to medical facilities on Oahu. This current provider has submitted testimony supporting this program.

For Hawai'i Island, this would help expedite and facilitate the administrative, training, facilities, personnel, and other supports needed to be able to immediately put into service upon receipt a new Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter, gifted to the people of Hawai'i County by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation. Expected to be delivered in December 2025, this \$16M aircraft will provide most needed critical care transport directly from Hawai'i Island hospitals to the trauma centers in Honolulu if time is of the essence and if a life-flight transport is unavailable, delayed or deemed too dangerous.

We are grateful to the Sayre Foundation and their funding partners for this gift and for modeling a proactive public-private partnership relationship warranted by the times and unique logistical challenges of our island state. We also mahalo current service providers, first responder agencies and medical organizations for supporting this initiative and hope this will become a model for other partnerships to improve healthcare and emergency response in the more rural communities of our entire state.

Time is of the essence to authorize this proposal during the 2024 Legislative session to be ready to make what amounts to a significant leap forward in the quality of life for, and wellbeing of all of the people of Hawai'i. Again, mahalo for your consideration.

**Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team**

<https://indivisiblehawaii.org/>

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:14:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Darlene	Indivisible Hawaii Healthcare Team	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support medevac services.

Mahalo.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:07:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Frank H. Sayre, D.D.S.	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Frank Sayre and I am a 49 year resident of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. As access to emergency medical care on the Neighbor Islands is limited, and our transport time to the larger hospitals on Oahu is critical, we need this option. Awaiting fixed wing transport and the resulting ambulance rides can be the difference between life and death. Access to lifesaving care should not be determined by one's Zip Code. Mahalo piha.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:11:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For neighbor islands this is critical. do not ignore this!!!!

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:13:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bil that facilitates emergency services to the neighbor islands.

deb Nehmad

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 2:12:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DEAN BRANDT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

Please allow for my testimony in support of 3126 SB RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.

This is a desperately needed Emergency Medical Service for the outer islands. During the two most recent Air Ambulance shutdowns, one permanently - Air Methods and one temporarily after a tragic aviation accident - Hawai'i Life Flight, we on the Big Island found ourselves without Aeromedical support. The US Coast Guard had to eventually supply a C-130 aircraft to transport critically ill patients to trauma centers on Oahu.

The current aeromedical provider, Hawai'i Life Flight is at times either overwhelmed with transports that are in-process, or unavailable due to mechanical or pilot availability issues. These periods of unavailability leaves Hawai'i Island vulnerable without immediate Air Ambulance support.

In specific, a Helicopter Air Ambulance service which can move a critical care patient from a regional hospital to a trauma center or from an accident scene directly to a hospital without the need of a ground ambulance is absolutely essential.

We have thousands of residents as well as visitors from around the globe residing on our shores and at any time someone could need lifesaving transport to Oahu. The fact that this EMS provision is not always readily available is unthinkable.

Mahalo for the accepting my testimony of support.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 4:51:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

your support will save lives on the Big Island. Mahalo for your kokua!

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 5:34:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalei Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kalei Gregory, I was born and raised in Hawaii and have had the honor of flying helicopters for the Hawaii County Fire Department for a decade now.

Flying the helicopter air ambulance for the Hawaii County Fire Department, we are able to pick up patients in need from all over the Hawaii island and bring them to whichever hospital is closest. We are also able to transport patients from one hospital to another when it is deemed necessary.

What I have been made aware of is the fact that many of the residents of Hawaii island, as well as the neighboring islands, are unable to receive timely transport to Oahu for emergency critical care. This is due to the fact that the current inter-island medical transportation infrastructure in the State of Hawaii, through private entities, needs more support. Maintenance and staffing issues have lead to the residents of this island having to wait 2-6 hours for transportation. At times the wait is even longer. Transportation that is needed for life threatening care and where every second counts.

I believe this bill to be of great importance as it will save the lives of so many of the residents of the State of Hawaii.

I hope that you vote yes to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kalei K. Gregory



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:47:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joann sarubbi md	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an emergency medicine physician who has faced delays in transferring severely critical patients over the last 30 years of working on the big island of Hawaii, I fully support this bill and encourage those responsible to pass it. It is vital for the people of Hawaii for safe and rapid transfer For a higher level of care

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 8:45:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Comerford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am providing testimony in support of Hawaii State SB3126. Support for this program is critical for Hawaii Island's aeromedical program. My foundation supports the Daniel Sayre Memorial Foundation and they are poised to receive a new (\$16M) Airbus H145 helicopter which will be a game changer for our entire State and our opportunity to provide critical care patients with life-saving transport.

My neighbor had a heart attack last year and it took 24 hours to move him to Oahu for medical treatment. Fortunately he survived, but not everyone is so lucky. Instead of the long delays of fixed wing aircraft, this helicopter could have critical care patients to Queens within 1 1/2 hours and help to avoid multiple ambulance transfers as the patient could be flown directly from our hospital on the Big Island to Queens.

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii State SB3126

Kind regards,

Sarah Comerford

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 8:46:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lawrence Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have a friend who had to wait 24 hours after a heart attack to be flown to Honolulu for treatment. Because of the delay, he lost more of his heart function than if a speedier transfer was available. I am fully supportive of emergency aeromedical services being available to the public.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:50:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Being a first responder I know how imperative it is to have funding to support this effort. It is important to reduce the time it takes for emergency services to be provided to those who need them. I support this bill. Mahalo.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 1:27:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senator"s,

I submit this testimony in support of HB 3126 to provide funding for critical care air transport services for the Counties of Kauai, Maui an Hawaii.

The recent accident involving Hawaii's only inter island aeromedical transport service resulted in the complete loss of service to transport critically ill patients from the rural communities on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii island to the main trama centers on Oahu. This disruption in service I'm sure placed the weldare of many patients in jeopardy who required advanced life support not available on the outer islands. The authors of this Bill have sought to prevent this from occurring in the future by subsidizing outer island County's development of back up Helicopter Air Ambulance services.

This bill is of extreme importance to me and many of our friends who experienced an ordeal when a very close acquaintance required immediate transport to Oahu and had to wait excruciating hours since a flight was not readily available. Our dear friend eventually passed away on Oahu and we may never know if immediate transport may have changed the outcome.

What we do know is the Daniel Sayre Foundation is in the process of donating a new Airbus H145 helicopter that is being outfitted to provide critical care transport. This helicopter is scheduled for delivery in 2025, however, requires operational funding to support its service once it arrives. This life saving vehicle will provide an invaluable opportunity to improve patient care for Hawaii Island residents. This helicopter desperately needs SB3126 to pass and be funded for the program to literally get off the ground.

We ask the Senate, House and Governor's office to support this bill and not squander this incredible opportunity and generosity of the donor's who are sacrificing so much to benefit Hawaii Island residents.

I humbly ask for you to accept this plea for help.

Best Regards.

David Okita



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:10:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Nair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a member of the Hawaii Island community we have seen explosive growth in our community, especially the westside of the island. Through the generousity commitment of our community, the county and emergency services have recieved tremendous support in fire rescue equipment including the two helicopters and potentially an additional fire station in the near future. The communities along the westside of the island are a a shining example of what is possible when the community works with the government to support the people and assests that make our community safe and unities. Without the governments on-going support, gifts are meaningless and ultimately the entire island community is negatively impacted. With your support of this bill, communities along the westside of Hawaii Island will gain a greater appreciation for this and future public private partnerships that benefit everyone.

Respectfully,

Scott W. Nair

# Patti Cook

Box 6960, Kamuela, HI 96743  
(808) 937-2833 - [Cookshi@aol.com](mailto:Cookshi@aol.com)

**TO: State House Committee on Health & Homelessness** - Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and Members

**TO: State House Committee on Transportation** - Rep. Chris Todd, Chair, Rep. Darius Kila, Vice Chair, and Members

**RE: SUPPORT for SB3126 SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES** - Hearing @ 11AM, Tues., March 19, 2024

**MAHALO** for scheduling this hearing and please **expedite passage of SB 3126 SD1** to create an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to significantly improve emergency healthcare response time for the people of the rural/remote Counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i,

This program would complement what is currently a single service medical transport provider in our State that experiences on average 2,500 air ambulance trips per year to medical facilities on Oahu. The current provider has submitted testimony supporting this program.

For Hawai'i Island, this would help expedite and facilitate the administrative, training, facilities, personnel, and other supports needed to be able to immediately put into service upon receipt a new Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter, gifted to the people of Hawai'i County by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation. Expected to be delivered in December 2025, this \$16M aircraft will provide most needed critical care transport directly from Hawai'i Island hospitals to the trauma centers in Honolulu if time is of the essence and if a life-flight transport is unavailable, delayed or deemed too dangerous.

We are deeply grateful to the Sayre Foundation and their funding partners for this gift and for modeling a pro-active public-private partnership relationship warranted by the times and unique logistical challenges of our island state. We also mahalo current service providers, first responder agencies and medical organizations for supporting this initiative and hope this will become a model for other partnerships to improve healthcare and emergency response in the more rural communities of our entire state.

Time is of the essence to authorize this proposal during the 2024 Legislative session to be ready to make what amounts to a significant leap forward in the quality of life for, and wellbeing of all of the people of Hawai'i. Again, mahalo for your consideration.

**Patti Cook**

Waimea, Island of Hawai'i



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:52:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeremiah Leonard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

As a long-standing resident of one of Hawaii's County, I reach out to express my strong support for Senate Bill 3126, which proposes the establishment of the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program. Living in a rural area, I've witnessed the stark realities of healthcare access disparities that our community faces. The difference in response times for medical emergencies between our community and more urban areas like Oahu can be the difference between life and death.

The introduction of aeromedical services as outlined in this bill is not just an improvement; it's a necessity. It means providing hope and tangible support to areas currently underserved by our healthcare system. This service could drastically reduce the time it takes for critical care to reach those in need, directly impacting the survival and recovery rates of patients in rural Hawaii.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 3126, as it represents a critical step toward ensuring that every resident of Hawaii, regardless of their geographic location, has access to the emergency medical services they deserve.

Mahalo for your consideration,

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:20:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa H. Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT**

*Medical response time for life-threatening emergencies on Hawai'i Island is seriously impacted by the size and rural/remote nature of so much of the island...coupled with the fact that the major trauma centers are in Honolulu.*

*The people of Hawai'i County, are being gifted with a 2nd helicopter – this next one will be an Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter - by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation. Expected to be delivered in December 2025, this \$16M donated aircraft will provide most needed critical care transport directly from Hawai'i Island hospitals to the trauma centers in Honolulu if time is of the essence and if a life-flight transport is unavailable, delayed or deemed too dangerous.*

*However, there's considerable preparation required to receive and operate this helicopter, and **SB3126 SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES** will authorize an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to fully realize the benefits as quickly as possible of this gift for the people of Hawai'i Island.*

*Hawaii Island needs this program authorized and funded this year in order for the County's first responders to be ready to put this new helicopter into service upon receipt.*

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:06:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael McCoy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of SB3126 to provide support for aeromedical services in Hawaii, specifically Hawaii county. Members of my family have been medically evacuated from Kona hospital to Honolulu in the past. The trip from the hospital to the airport can be an hour or more. Then there is additional time to reach a hospital in Honolulu from HNL. The use of a helicopter will minimize the overall travel time and provide other benefits. It is important to provide financial support for the program and plan well in advance for that support. Aloha

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 12:57:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Davies	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is such a vital piece of legislation for those of us living on the outer islands. We are helping ourselves but need your support too.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:01:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannine Fliar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:09:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Phyl Branco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. We have a desperate need for medical transport from the Big Island to Honolulu. We have been waiting years for this.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:45:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in support of SB3126 which would authorize an emergency aeromedical services for the residents of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai counties. This would make it easier for the residents of rural islands to access the critical care they need.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:21:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Skibby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to encourage passage of SB3126 to help provide operational funding for the Airbus H145 helicopter that will be provided to Hawaii County by the Daniel R Sayre Memorial Foundation within the next year and a half. This helicopter will significantly shorten the time required to transport patients from Hawaii Island to O'ahu and funding from the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program is needed to keep this helicopter flying. Thank you

James Skibby



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:38:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharon A Nair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB3126 as it necessary for our community in ensuring safe transportation of critical care patients.

Please keep our local families and visitors safe and **approve SB3126**

Thank You for your time and attention.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:04:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3126 will enable the acceptance of a donated H145 medical helicopter, which will be a lifesaver for those needing rapid medivacuation to Oahu hospitals. Please pass SB3126.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:36:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support providing operational funding for the Aeromedical program for the new Airbus H145 that the Daniel R. Sayer Memorial Foundation will be gifting to Hawaii County in December 2025. This gift will be a game changer for our island and enable many lives to be saved, providing transportation to medical care not available on our island to those in need. Please approve this bill!

Mahalo

Tamara L Brown

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:02:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a resident and practicing physician in Kailua-Kona since 1994, I have seen the urgent need for emergency aeromed services from Kona Community Hospital to Oahu numerous times. We have the opportunity to strengthen and improve this vital service with the proposed Bill SB 3126, SD1. I am 100% in support of this bill. David K. Hiranaka, MD, DMD

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:10:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB3126 SD1 to improve access to timely health care for Neighbor Island residents like myself,

Mahalo,

Doris Segal Matsunaga, Waimea, Hawai'i Island

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:39:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Warren Huckabay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My wife Kathleen and I strongly support passage of SB3126 because the lack of sophisticated specialized emergency medical treatment facilities in Hawaii County requires that emergency high speed medial transportation be available to transport patients to Oahu for specialized critical care. Additionally, without the perception of state supported operational funding, organizations such as the Sayre Foundation may be unwilling to provide sophisticated medical equipment in the future.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:46:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The outer island residents suffer from a greater rate of economic disparity and are not equipped to deal with an air ambulance bill. It's imperative to make this service available to all citizens.

Mahalo,

Bob Douglas

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:45:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa M. Nitta, DDS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many lives are at risk not to support this bill. Hawaii island growth rate is currently the highest in the state and the hard working and tax paying citizens of Hawaii County are in great need of medical support.

Mahalo.



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:59:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gwen Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, in observance of the need for the people of Hawaii, to receive immediate medical care, transportation from Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, we are in need of more air ambulances in order to get to medical aid not available in these islands.

Please think of your mom being on one of these islands not able to be transported in her time of need.

Do to others as you want done to you.

Thank you, Gwen Rodrigues

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:41:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Burkhouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill must pass for the sake of the citizens of Hawaii

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:15:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paige Lovett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a emergency medicine physician assistant in East Hawaii for the past eight years, I know that we have a great need for increased ability to transfer patients when required. Often times, the limiting factor is air transport. It's very difficult to watch patients decompensate while they're waiting for someone to come pick them up. I support this bill.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:45:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Living in one of Hawaii's most disaster-prone areas, I have seen the aftermath of nature's fury too many times. The wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters that our community faces highlight the urgent need for comprehensive and effective emergency response systems. This is why I wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 3126, which proposes the creation of the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program.

This bill is about more than just improving emergency medical services; it's about enhancing our community's resilience in the face of disasters. With aeromedical services readily available, we can significantly improve our disaster response capabilities, ensuring quicker evacuations, faster medical attention, and ultimately, more lives saved.

I urge you to consider the profound impact this legislation could have on disaster-prone areas across Hawaii. By supporting Senate Bill 3126, you are investing in our community's safety, well-being, and future resilience.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Aloha,

Michael Meyer



TO: State House Committee on Health & Homelessness - Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and Members

TO: State House Committee on Transportation - Rep. Chris Todd, Chair, Rep. Darius Kila, Vice Chair, and Members

RE: SUPPORT for SB3126 SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES - Hearing @ 11AM, Tues., March 19, 2024

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of SB 3126 SD1, which aims to establish an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program in order to significantly enhance emergency healthcare response times for the rural and remote Counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i.

This initiative is particularly crucial for Hawai'i Island, where the implementation of such a program could expedite and streamline the administrative, training, facilities, personnel, and other necessary supports required for the immediate deployment of a new Airbus H145 medevac helicopter. This aircraft, generously gifted to the people of Hawai'i County by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation, is expected to be delivered in December 2025.

With a value of \$16 million, this twin-engine helicopter will serve as a vital resource for transporting critically ill or injured patients from Hawai'i Island hospitals to trauma centers in Honolulu, especially in situations where time is of the essence, and traditional life-flight transport options are unavailable, delayed, or deemed too risky.

Having served as the President of the Hawai'i Island Rural Health Association from 2017 to 2021, I have witnessed firsthand the urgent need for improved emergency medical services on Hawai'i Island. Without access to a Level 1 trauma center within our acute hospitals, we rely heavily on medevac services for life-saving interventions on a near-daily basis.

I urge you to expedite the passage of SB 3126 SD1 and commit to providing the necessary funding to sustain statewide response services in the short term. By doing so, we can ensure that residents of rural and remote areas in Hawai'i have timely access to critical medical care when they need it most.

With aloha,

Sally Ancheta, Hilo Resident, Past President Hawai'i Island Rural Health Association

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:29:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TIFFANI DUNN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:50:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloh,

I support HB3126 SD1 for the primary reasons of logic, necessity and urgency. As you know our island of Hawaii faces severe shortages of and access to badly-needed healthcare and medical transport, even Intra-island. This fabulous med heli donation to our community requires an expedited system of implementation so we can begin to utilize this gift and get patients transported in a more timely way to get the care they need, since our island cannot offer many of the urgent medical services.

Mahalo for your time.



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:13:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB 3126 SD1 to create an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to significantly improve emergency healthcare response time for the people of the counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i,

For Hawai'i Island, this would help expedite and facilitate the administrative, training, facilities, personnel, and other supports needed to be able to immediately put into service upon receipt a new Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter, gifted to the people of Hawai'i County by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation. Expected to be delivered in December 2025, this \$16M aircraft will provide most needed critical care transport directly from Hawai'i Island hospitals to the trauma centers in Honolulu if time is of the essence and if a life-flight transport is unavailable, delayed or deemed too dangerous.

Time is of the essence to authorize this proposal during the 2024 Legislative session to be ready to make what amounts to a significant leap forward in the quality of life for, and wellbeing of all of the people of Hawai'i.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:12:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brittany Parent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On October 6, 2024 my 64 year old father suffered a heart attack. He was taken to Kona Community Hospital to find he had a blockage and would need to be transferred to Hilo hospital as Kona was not equipped to do anything. He was put in the back of an ambulance to be driven to Hilo after suffering a heart attack just a few hours prior. Due to unavailability he could not be flown. My Dad never made it to Hilo, he suffered a 2nd heart attack while in transit to Hilo that he would not recover from. The medical field failed my Dad, our lack of facilities, personal and equipment failed my Dad, and countless others. Our hearts are shattered without him, he was a husband, father, Papa, brother and an asking friend and now we all are struggling to live without him. If he could have been air lifted over maybe he would have survived! With a much shorter trip maybe our lives would've have changed so drastically, maybe my kids would still have their Papa and my Mom her husband of 40 years. This has the potential to save lives, and save families from heartbreaks. In a fast growing island we need more medical services, and this is a great step forward for our entire community!

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:19:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! WILL SAVE LIVES!!!

MAHALO!

To: Hawaii State House Committees on Health & Homelessness and on Transportation

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday March 19, 2024, 11:00am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 329 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports SB3126 SD1 relating to RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.

Dear Chairs Rep. Della Au Belatti and Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chairs Rep. Jenna Takenouchi and Rep. Darius K. Kila, and members of the Committees on Health & Homelessness and on Transportation

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support SB3126 SD1 relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services.

As you know, medical response time for life-threatening emergencies on Hawai'i Island is seriously impacted by the size and rural/remote nature of so much of the island...coupled with the fact that the major trauma centers are in Honolulu.

The people of Hawai'i County, are being gifted with a 2<sup>nd</sup> helicopter – this next one will be an Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter - by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation. Expected to be delivered in December 2025, this \$16M donated aircraft will provide much needed critical care transport directly from Hawai'i Island hospitals to the trauma centers in Honolulu if time is of the essence and if a life-flight transport is unavailable, delayed or deemed too dangerous.

However, there's considerable preparation required to receive and operate this helicopter, and SB3126 SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES will authorize an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to fully realize the benefits as quickly as possible of this gift for the people of Hawai'i Island. The bill also addresses emergency services for the Counties of Maui and Kaua'i.

We need this program authorized and funded this year in order for our County's first responders to be ready to put this new helicopter into service upon receipt.

This bill passed through the State Senate with ALL YES VOTES and we hope this might be the case in the House, but it would be helpful for our State Reps to hear from you.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB3126 SD1.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:48:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a retired Fire Captain from Hawaii County, I am in full support of SB 3126. We are in need of aeromedical support her on the Big Island.

Mahalo nui loa

David Minor

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:00:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Younce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for funding to acquire a helicopter for local emergency services on Hawaii Island. As a resident of this beautiful island, I understand the unique challenges our community faces in terms of accessibility and response times during emergencies, especially given the island's diverse terrain and occasional severe weather conditions.

The addition of a helicopter to our emergency services fleet would significantly enhance our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to a wide range of emergencies, including search and rescue operations, medical evacuations, firefighting efforts, and disaster response. Unlike traditional ground transportation, helicopters offer the advantage of speed, agility, and accessibility to remote and rugged areas that are often inaccessible by road.

Moreover, with Hawaii Island being prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes, having a dedicated helicopter would bolster our preparedness and resilience in the face of such events. It would provide invaluable support to our first responders, enabling them to reach those in need more rapidly and evacuate individuals from hazardous situations promptly.

Furthermore, the helicopter would not only serve as a critical asset during emergencies but also play a vital role in community outreach, education, and training programs aimed at promoting safety and preparedness among residents and visitors alike. Its presence would foster a sense of security and confidence within our community, knowing that we have the necessary resources in place to respond effectively to any crisis that may arise.

I urge you to prioritize funding for this essential investment in our local emergency services. By allocating resources to acquire a helicopter, you would be making a significant and tangible commitment to the safety and well-being of the residents of Hawaii Island. Your support in securing funding for this initiative would be greatly appreciated and would undoubtedly have a positive and lasting impact on our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your favorable response and continued efforts to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities on Hawaii Island.

Mahalo and be well,

Shannon Y.

### **Testimony Emergency Aeromedical Transportation:**

My name is Dr. Nicholas Franklin. I am a practicing geriatrician and medical director for long-term care with Hawaii Health Service Corporation Kauai Region (HHSC-KR) overseeing two facilities totally 86 LTC beds.

I support SB 3126 as written and encourage consideration to expand the scope by explicitly implementing a structure for select non-emergency medical transport services interisland. This service needs conditions and guarantees for round trip transport accommodations.

Without practical interisland ocean transit, our outer islands lack non-emergency medical transport for access to specialists and interventions on Oahu not amenable to telemedicine for patients unable to endure commercial air travel.

Such patients are typically debilitated with partial or complete paralysis complicated by body habitus that prohibits use of commercial air travel; both for transfer complications and/or inability to transit seated in such upright accommodations. This is a standard requirement when selecting higher level medical transit on land for any patient (van/bus, basic life support certified, advanced life support certified). Hawaii must consider such accommodations for these rare but appropriate cases.

Some procedures; i.e. Automatic Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (AICD) generator exchange, Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt (VP shunt) adjustments, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) follow up care for repeat replacement; these complicated procedures require access to facilities not available on the outer islands. There are insurance determinations limiting what is ruled 'in-patient' and 'out-patient', resulting in limitations for interval boarding since these long-term care patients can't just stay at hotels with the dedicated RNs and CNAs we deploy alongside. Often, these out-patient procedures require multiple immediate follow up visits in the subsequent days of procedure prohibiting prompt return...for 'outpatient' procedures.

A factor limiting equal medical care on outer islands remains the logistics for transporting these difficult, debilitated patients for standard of care procedures not otherwise available. These situations are uncommon. The situational acceptance for foregoing this sort medical procedure, otherwise appropriate and standard of care for condition/morbidity/age, can be rectified by expanding the focus and goal of SB 3126 to include such specific non-emergency interisland aeromedical transport.

I support SB 3126 providing increased medical transport for emergency outer island care. Please consider how this new legislation can also include clauses to provide important care access for our most vulnerable Hawaii residents on the outer islands.



Sincerely,

Nicholas Franklin, DO

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:02:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this project

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:02:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Hustace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB3126 SD1 to improve emergency healthcare response time for our rural and remote communities. Mahalo nui.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:14:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Shimei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN SUPPORT

Dear Legislators,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen, deeply troubled by the tragic incidents that have unfolded along our cliffsides and in our waters, particularly highlighted by the heart-wrenching loss of Kala'iokealaula Ashley Nicole Reyes Kanekoa. Her story, a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities we face in emergencies, especially during night hours and in offshore scenarios, underscores an urgent need for legislative action to enhance our emergency response capabilities.

Senate Bill 3126, with its proposal for the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program, offers a beacon of hope in addressing these challenges. The harrowing experiences of individuals like Kala'iokealaula, who tragically lost her life after falling from a cliff and being swept away by the ocean's currents, along with the distressing accounts of fishermen whose vessels capsize far from shore, illustrate a critical gap in our current emergency services.

The delay in response times during night hours, compounded by the lack of immediately available and adequately equipped rescue units, can no longer be overlooked. The proposed legislation has the potential to significantly mitigate these risks by ensuring that aeromedical and specialized rescue services are on hand to swiftly respond to such dire situations, regardless of the time or location.

It is imperative that we support Senate Bill 3126, not only as a measure to prevent future tragedies but as a commitment to the safety and well-being of our community members. Enhanced emergency response capabilities, particularly for cliffside incidents and offshore rescues, are essential to ensuring that no call for help goes unanswered in our beloved state.

Let us honor the memory of Kala'iokealaula and the countless others who have found themselves in peril by taking decisive action to improve our emergency response infrastructure. Your support for this bill is a step towards safeguarding our communities against the unpredictable forces of nature and preventing avoidable loss of life.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Kekela

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:55:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Teri Leicher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing on behalf of my family and co-workers in support of SB3126. Hawaii Island is still very rural without access to some of the more advanced medical care that is often needed in our communities.

It is critical that we have emergency transportation to access emergency medical care.

Our population of Kama'aina (not to forget visitors as well) is growing and with it the need to grow our access to professional and advanced medical services.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Teri Leicher

Managing Partner - Jack's Diving Locker - Kona, Hawaii

Testimony on SB 3126 SD1  
Relating to Establishing Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership  
Program

Submitted by Dr. Steven Pine, DDS  
March 19, 2024

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 3126 SD1, which aims to establish an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program in rural counties with populations of less than 500,000. As the Chief Dental Officer for a community health center, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by residents in rural communities, particularly concerning access to critical healthcare services.

The current healthcare landscape in rural areas of Hawaii is marked by a significant disparity in resources compared to more urbanized areas, such as Oahu. This inequality in access to advanced levels of trauma care, medical specialists, and sub-specialists places residents of these underserved regions at a heightened risk of poor health outcomes, especially in cases of serious medical emergencies like heart attacks, strokes, and traumatic injuries.

Furthermore, the existing system of interisland medical transport is overburdened, with only one interisland aeromedical provider serving the entire state. This limited infrastructure poses a considerable risk to patient safety, as disruptions to these services due to factors like maintenance issues or crew availability can lead to potentially life-threatening delays in accessing necessary medical care.

Senate Bill 3126 SD1 presents a viable solution to address these pressing issues by establishing an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program, modeled after the successful initiative in Maui County. By partnering with the Department of Health, rural counties will be able to ensure the consistent availability of air ambulance services, thereby enhancing the overall resiliency of emergency aeromedical services across the state.

The proposed program outlines a clear framework for collaboration between the state and county governments, with defined responsibilities for funding and operations. This collaborative approach will not only improve access to emergency medical transport but also facilitate efficient coordination and resource allocation to meet the unique needs of each community.

Additionally, the bill includes provisions for statewide standards and rulemaking, ensuring that the program adheres to the highest levels of safety and quality of care. By establishing these guidelines, we can guarantee that all residents, regardless of their geographic location, have access to reliable emergency medical services when they need them most.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 3126 SD1 represents a critical step towards addressing the healthcare disparities faced by rural communities in Hawaii. By investing in the establishment of an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program, we can safeguard the health and well-being of our residents and ensure equitable access to life-saving medical care. I urge you to support this important legislation for the benefit of all.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

*Steven Pine*

Steven C. Pine D.D.S.



**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:48:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Makaimoku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

I am testifying in opposition to SB3126 regarding state DOH/Counties proposed aeromedical program. While another reliable aeromedical transport option is sorely needed within the state, I do not feel it is within the ability of the County of Hawaii to carry this mission out. The Hawaii Fire Department currently has on island aeromedical capabilities that have recently become limited due to EMS staffing, pilot staffing, and limitations of the the new aeromedical helicopter. The Hawaii Fire Departement has found itself extremely short staffed, particularly in the Paramedic position. On a given day, multiple Advanced Life Support ambulance units are downgraded to Basic Life Support units due to lack of Paramedic staffing/availibilty. This downgrading does an injustice to the communities that they serve by offering limited and inferior care options especially in serious/critical cases. The Hawaii Fire Department currently is not able to support the community with reliable Advanced Life Support/Paramedic care via ALS Ambulance. How can the HFD possibly consider staffing an interisland aeromedical unit when daily ALS Ambulance staffing needs cannot be met?

I fully support the need for more aeromedical services throughout the state. Those of us on the outer islands often need the specialty care services provided by larger and more capable medical institutions found on Oahu. I do not believe that the Hawaii County Fire department is currently capable of providing this service and all that it encompasses as the EMS section is already understaffed with no end in sight. Acquiring this new burden of aeromedical services will result in greater Paramedic staff shortages that will ultimately effect daily ALS ambulance services to the community. A better option may be to allow other agencies such Hilo Medical Center to operate such a program. They may have a better chance to find staffing from the nursing pool or create a new program and train a new generation of flight nurses.

**SB-3126-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:09:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2024 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the People are Oposed to Communizum. To Much Contol. The people will not stand for any more Bull shit from the GOVERNMENT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!