

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1572, S.D. 1

February 22, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

This bill creates a separate bargaining unit (BU) (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees while leaving the rest of the current BU (10) employees in the existing BU.

The Legislature has created two new BUs in recent years and is considering creating others, in addition to this one, this session. There are concerns with the increasing administrative costs and complexities, negotiating, arbitrating, and managing of contracts for every increasing number of BUs.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

LATE

Statement of
BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO
Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 22, 2023
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SB 1572, SD1, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of SB 1572, SD1, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS) employees, and recategorizes EMS employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16). However, we must respectfully oppose this measure.

The OCB is concerned for the following reasons:

1. The Honolulu Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department may include employees in other bargaining units (BU) besides BU 10 and as currently written it is unclear as to whether the intent of this measure is to include these employees in BU 16.
2. BU 10 is comprised of institutional, health and correctional workers, which include, among others, EMS employees, Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).
3. OCB believes that separating EMS employees from BU 10 is not necessary, as the current collective bargaining agreement addresses changes to wages, hours and other conditions of work. For example, EMS employees, ACOs and LPNs are covered under three distinct salary schedules.
4. In addition to wages, Section 55 of the BU 10 collective bargaining agreement was specifically negotiated for EMS employees to include work schedules, temporary work unit, seniority, and personal equipment. Similarly, Section 61 was negotiated for Adult and Youth Correction Officers and

Juvenile Detention Employees.

5. Should there be operational concerns in the workplace that may not have been addressed, as an alternative to creating a new BU, Section 89-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides for other agreements to be reached by the parties during the term of the collective bargaining agreement to address such issues.

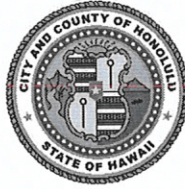
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 10TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR

FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate, Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1572 SD 1
Relating to Collective Bargaining

Senate Bill No. 1572 SD 1 creates a separate bargaining unit 16 for the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. It recategorizes the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services Department employees into bargaining unit 16.

For the purposes of aiding the Committee in its deliberations, the City and County of Honolulu (City), Department of Human Resources (DHR), respectfully provides the following clarifying information.

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department (HESD) currently has employees represented by the United Public Workers (UPW) and the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) that are included in bargaining units 01, 03, 04, 10, 13, and 15. As presently written, Senate Bill No. 1572 SD 1 would place all HESD employees into a new bargaining unit 16, regardless of their current bargaining unit or union.

The City is currently administering contracts for nine different bargaining units involving four separate unions. As such, DHR has concerns regarding the increase in costs and complexities related to establishing, negotiating, arbitrating, and managing yet another bargaining unit and contract, particularly without added staff and resources.

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2023
Page 2

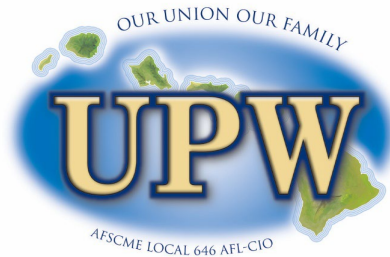
Finally, the proposed bargaining unit 16 would be comprised only of City employees in one department, yet the City would have no substantive bargaining autonomy to negotiate with the proposed bargaining unit 16 because the Governor will still have six votes and the Mayor will have only one vote for purposes of collective bargaining.

The Mayor and the people of the City and County of Honolulu appreciate the hard working employees of HESD and we thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,



Nola N. Miyasaki
Director



**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 9:30 PM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1572, SD1 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **strongly supports** SB1572, SD1, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) Department employees. This bill also recategorizes City and County of Honolulu EMS Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16).

Creating a separate bargaining unit for the EMS employees of the City and County of Honolulu is critical for addressing the unique challenges they are currently faced with. High call volume, staffing shortages related to recruitment and retention, and work-related trauma are just a few of the many issues our EMS employees are being burdened with. Our EMS members will tell you that they are in crisis and passing this bill will provide this group of first responders with the ability to resolve many of these issues with the Employer.

We appreciate you hearing this legislation and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kalani Werner
State Director

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:14:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kurry Araki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kurry Araki a Paramedic and an employee of HEMS for the past 18 years. I have often wondered why as an important part of first responder community that we didn't have our own bargaining unit. We were thrown into a bargaining unit that I often felt we didn't belong too. This bargaining unit (10) that we were thrown into was a BU that all were leftovers that required a BU to function. I often felt that because no one knew how to classify EMS that we were placed into that BU. I'm here to state that we are an integral part of the first responder community and that we can and often make a difference in all of your constituents, family and friends lives when we are called upon to serve. That's right you heard me correctly we serve the community and people of Oahu. Whether they are residents or visitors to Oahu we serve them to the best of our abilities and often make a difference in their lives. We deserve the same level of respect as HPD/HFD personnel and by having our own BU is a step in the right direction. We can now have a voice in our future for both the short and long term. No longer will we be a nameless voice that continually goes unheard through the capitol and who are commonly called "ambulance drivers". We are Emergency Medical Technicians whose sole job is to treat the sick or injured of our community. We are called Paramedics or EMTs who have earned that right. In closing I would like to say vote in favor for SB1572 and let us have our own BU. We deserve this opportunity.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:31:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Chiavetta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am, 18 year Medic in the state of hawaii. I have used the Union's services in the past with major issues. What I did notice was that EMS provides a special category of issues that do not transfer well to other occupations in BU10. I believe that EMS needs its own union in order to specifically adress the needs we have as EMTs and paramedics at the City & County EMS division. I would much rather have a union that is headed by people of my profession with my need at heart.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 1:20:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelly Desha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 20 year employee I strongly support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 5:50:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaun Takeshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1

RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shaun Takeshita and I am the Paramedic supervisor of the Metro One ambulance for Honolulu EMS . I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Our department is in a state of crisis despite of what you may have heard and desperately need your help. The men and women who serve their community daily can no long sustain the tremendous workload and many are searching other employment opportunities. Work conditions are poor, including mold found in ambulance stations, placing employees and the public in dangerous ambulances that should be condemned, and supply shortages that do not allow us to do our jobs effectively are the driving factor that are causing a mass exodus from this department. If we cannot work together to make a positive change, EMS will no longer be available in the future.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with

dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Shaun Takeshita

MECS III

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 6:42:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The men and women of Honolulu EMS are the unsung heros in the first responder realm. They work tirelessly day in and day out and need your support now more than ever. They continue to run short handed with personnel, resources and equipment and it's only projected to worsen in the coming years. Please vote in support of SB1572 and help these heros continue to serve our residence and visitors.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 7:46:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keavy Brennan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keavy Brennan and I am a paramedic on the island of Kauai at AMR. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I worked as a paramedic for the city and county of Honolulu for 12 years and had to leave because of the financial and times of work shifts we had. Many times we worked short handed and it only continues to get worse for my brothers and sisters still out there. We all hope that we never need an ambulance or experience a medical emergency but I can assure you that you would want Honolulu city and county there to help you. Please don't fail to recognize their hard work and allow them to change bargaining units.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Keavy Brennan MICT

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 8:25:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in favor of this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 8:53:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kea Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kea Smith and I am a Paramedic Supervisor with the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services and have been for the past 14 years. You accompanied me a few years ago on a ambulance ride along. I am humbly asking for your consideration in passing SB1572. This bill would create a new bargaining unit for Honolulu EMS employees, which will be a step in the right direction to address some of the most critical issues surrounding us by focusing ONLY on Honolulu EMS during contract negotiations.

The City and County of Honolulu, EMT's and Paramedics have gone misrepresented for far too long in BU10 which is comprised mostly of State of Hawaii Corrections Officers. All other employees in BU10 are State employed/funded, while Honolulu EMS is now County funded after the passing of HB1281.

Although all the BU10 jobs are essential, we share nothing in common with the other in the unit. Honolulu EMS is at a critical period now with attrition and it's only projected to worsen if changes aren't made.

Please support the approx. 300 City and County of Honolulu EMT's and Paramedics that have worked tirelessly through the Covid-19 pandemic and continue to work tirelessly, 24/7, putting in long hours in high stress environments and high utilization with critical staffing shortage levels.

If you need any further clarification or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Kea Smith

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 10:14:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Higuchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Troy HIGUCHI, and I have been with the City and County of Honolulu for 14 years. As a Paramedic for the past 11 years I have seen alot of changes in both the department and the world we live. Never in my 14 years have I seen the medical field in the crisis it has been. Hospitals are struggling to staff nurses, doctors and various other staff, and unfortunately EMS is no different.

I have worked through the staffing crisis that resulted in a change in our work schedule, and I can attest that this has had a positive role. None of this would've been possible without your support. Now we humbly ask for your help again in supporting this urgent and necessary bill.

EMS is the ONLY first responder organization that does not have its own bargaining unit. Fire, Police and Ocean Safety all have their own bargaining unit allowing them to bargain based off their specific needs and challenges. EMS on the other hand cannot. This severely hampers the department's ability to retain personnel.

Personnel is the reason this bill is needed. Without man power things can and will get done, because getting things done in the most professional and effective manner is what the heroic men and women of EMS do. However. it will have several severe and costly consequences along the way. Burnout, health problems and a stressed system will cause more problems than can be explained in this space.

All you need to know is that by supporting this bill, you are not just supporting the men and women of EMS. You are supporting yourself, your friends, your community and anyone else you love and care about. With your support of this bill we can more effectively serve both you and the community. Please support us so that we may continue to serve, support and care for you.

Troy HIGUCHI, Paramedic

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1
RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaleolani Souza and I am a Paramedic with the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have worked with the department for over 12 years. As a mother of 2 and the primary provider for my family, it has been difficult working through the issues that we are currently facing. I feel that us as employees have been spread thin and expected to make the best of difficult circumstances. Imagine being expected to provide life-saving treatment to someone's loved one, while having to deal with shortages in vital drugs and medical equipment. Then being expected to transport those loved ones in ambulances that constantly break down. Imagine having your loved one having to wait for an extended period of time because he simply do not have enough ambulances to support Oahu's growing population. I became a paramedic because of my passion to help those in need and I believe the people of Hawaii deserve nothing but the best.

Re-categorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Sincerely,

Kaleolani Souza

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:21:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PATRICK MATSUKI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patrick Matsuki and I am the firefighter/paramedic of the Federal Fire Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

This is long overdue. We are overworked and underpaid. I started in EMS 32 years ago with the City and to think that the pay has not gotten much better. I switched to the Federal Fire Department for better pay, less stress and less work. Please give these guys what they deserve.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Patrick Matsuki

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:12:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am a District Chief with Honolulu Emergency Medical Services, I have been with the department for 23 years.

I am in support of SB1572 SD1. This will provide an avenue for greater retention of our employees.

From the beginning of a career with HEMS it takes a new hire Emergency Medical Technician approximately 4 years to become a Paramedic. The process of becoming a certified EMT, establishing road experience, Paramedic class, internship, to Paramedic evaluation; is a long and extensive process. This process requires a lot of didactic/road hours, skilled preceptors, and training officers. The amount invested into becoming a Paramedic with HEMS is substantial on the individual, as well as, the personnel mentoring and training them.

Through my career I have seen many complete this process and leave for another similar career path with other agencies. The loss to HEMS is considerable with the amount of training and mentoring invested into them.

SB1572 SD1 will allow HEMS to negotiate competitive wages for this demanding career and allow for retention of our employees by minimizing the frequency of turnover to other agencies.

Mahalo

Jonathan Hong

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:13:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Chun	Testifying for City & County of Honolulu EMS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The upfront, and continuing, educational requirements needed to carry out the type of work that EMS does is, in and of itself, a valid reason to recategorizes City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16). We hope that our voices are heard and our unique requirments are recognized. Thank you.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 1:27:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Henshaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tyler Henshaw and I am a Police Officer for Kauai, but I served for 13 years as an Officer in Honolulu. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

EMS needs to have its own union. For far too long they have sat unnoticed and uncared for by the United Public Workers union. They are essential personal and human beings too. They do not deserve to be treated as children that need to be silenced by their union because they do not take priority. There are plenty of passionate EMS people that will gladly take charge and fight for what is needed to best serve the city and county and also the workers.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

-Tyler Henshaw

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 1:57:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessi Locke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jessi Locke, I am currently a Firefighter with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and a previous Firefighter of the Honolulu Fire Department. I strongly urge you to support SB1572.

I witnessed first hand the trials and tribulations that the Paramedics and EMT's of the City and County of Honolulu's Emergency Medical Services faced. With the successful passing of SB1572 not only will you be supporting the men and women on the frontlines but in turn improvements will be made to the services provides to the residence and visitors of Hawaii.

Thank You,

Jessi Locke - Firefighter
LACoFD

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:03:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1572. They deserve to have their own representation. Hopefully by having this, they can receive all that they deserve for their efforts supporting our community.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:17:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayne Hwunan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shayne Hwunan. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

The men and women of Honolulu EMS are the frontline of emergency medicine. They are the ones who will be there for our families and friends on their worst day and stay with them until they are in the safe hands of a doctor. They are the ones who will console us when we are inconsolable. They will be there when we call 911 not knowing what else we should do. They will be there to see, hear, and feel the sights and sounds that the rest of us couldn't imagine having to witness once in our lifetime, let alone through 25+ year careers. They will be there for us.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1,

Shayne Enright

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:23:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Nicely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:25:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake S	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in full support of bill sb1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:27:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Tangonan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:32:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chadwick Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1
RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chadwick Tam and I am currently a Fire Fighter with the Honolulu Fire Department and a previous MICT with the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

As a previous member of C&C EMS, it was hard to get the attention and full support of our union while it was overshadowed by other positions that are also in BU10. C&C EMS needs their own BU because they are a special department and need a unit to give them their undivided attention. Their own unit to address working conditions, pay, retention, safety issues, and supply and equipment.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Fire Fighter 1 Chadwick Tam

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:34:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1572 SD1 as amended

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:39:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Collin Mansanas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:40:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Maruoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:40:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Maeva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:40:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JON WHITE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of SB1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:41:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Malepeai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:50:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiva Tatofi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support our first responders and our medical emergency responders. I furthermore support them and their efforts to form their own bargaining unit.

Mahalo

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:53:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Matthew Coleman support this bill. I support seperate bargaining.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:02:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larissa Hughes	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Larissa Hughes, MS,LAT,ATC and I am an athletic trainer for the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association and a Flight Attendant for Hawaiian Airlines. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Throughout my career as both a board certified athletic trainer and flight attendant I have called upon the expertise and assistance of the Honolulu EMS department employees on more than one occasion. Without their quick response time, advanced knowledge in immediate emergency care, and expeditious transport of my ill and injured athletes and passengers those calls could have resulted in dire consequence. As an allied healthcare professional I can honestly say that I would not be able to provide the best care possible without the assistance of the Honolulu EMS department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Larissa Hughes, MS,LAT, ATC

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:07:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karla Archuleta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the city and count paramedics having their own .

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:14:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal Faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:15:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylen Mahuka-Kaawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill 1572 as I am a first responder with C&C of Honolulu EMS. We deserve to be in a department in its own due to daily duties in serving the community and helping those in need. Our job duties are unique and with our department going into a new bargaining unit we will be able to make changes for the future and for the betterment of our communities and our state.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:20:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pio pelesasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:22:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas CathcartIII	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:24:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for the city and county paramedics to standalone as a union.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:26:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Falaniko Vitale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1572.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:30:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of sb1572.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:34:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB1572, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the unique challenges EMS employees are currently facing as first responders who are providing a critical service to our community. We need EMS.... Give them what they deserve...

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:36:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Tappe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB1572 Relating to collective bargaining. And I am willing to elaborate more on it if the need be.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:38:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Andres jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:38:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ric	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:39:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Decker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in SUPPORT.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:41:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Stoltzman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1572 SD1

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:46:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

One group that serves a totally different function should have it's own representation.

Mahalo,

Joanne Parker

Parkerinparadise@msn.com

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:49:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:56:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merry Henobio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the city and county of paramedics to standalone as a Union.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:01:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Rees	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:07:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:10:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:11:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Stephanie Silva and I'm a 25 year flight attendant with Hawaiian Airlines. I am in strong support of bill SB1572. Our EMT's are the most valuable part of our communities!

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:28:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapono Kaiwi-Barrionuebo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB 1572.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:41:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Kersting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Working in EMS for the last 12 years and seeing how poorly funded every EMS company/department is, I think this would be high for the city and county of Honolulu. As a worker I have experienced not having proper equipment to do my job due to poor funding, we have been over worked and under appreciated through an unprecedented time, and ultimately we are the true front line workers! We go into these people's homes and expose ourselves with no worry in the world and every intent to help for what? 27 dollars an hour? Nurses who are in a controlled environment with various resources and staff along with negative pressure rooms and so forth make 50 dollars an hour! How is this fair!?!?

I believe giving EMS their own bargaining unit with representatives from our department who truly understand would be the most advantageous thing for everyone involved. I believe that this alone would help to retain employees and perhaps draw new employees in. We are burnt out! Something has to change. Let's be the change!

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:58:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Lamke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Lamke I am a Paramedic with the City and County of Honolulu EMS Division . I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I was involved heavily with Ocean Safety Department when the asked for the same consideration several years ago. I have seen the positive effects that have occurred since they were able to create a new bargaining unit. The ability to have a bargaining unit that will be able to focus on the unique issues that are presented by Emergency Care and Services for the citizens of Honolulu would greatly benefit the employees, the City and the residents and visitors. Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1. Matthew Lamke

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:00:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting testimony- senate

Supporting -SB1572 SD1

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:03:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wailua Lind	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Paramedic with the City & County of Honolulu and in strong support of SB1572, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees; Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the unique challenges EMS employees are currently facing as first responders who are providing a critical service to our community.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:19:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Fleming	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

Members of the City and County EMS team have a unique set of circumstances and conditions under which they work. As the Medical Director of a Honolulu Emergency Department, I have seen first-hand how these professionals deal with both the drama and trauma of taking care of our citizens and visitors in the moment of dire need, as well as the immense burden of the professional standards and personal toll the job takes. Theirs is a singular job. There is nothing like it. Lumping them in with other civil service jobs does not make intuitive sense. They need their own collective bargaining organization, which can look out for their specific set of needs.

Throughout these pandemic times, and for over twenty years before, I have been standing at the end of the ambulance ride, ready to receive their precious cargo. I have witnessed their heroism through lives saved and emergencies stabilized. They have upheld their end of a social contract, a sacred covenant made between them and the community they have dedicated themselves to serving. They put their very selves way out over the line for us, through the terrifying and challenging times, come what may. We, as the community they serve, owe it to them to deliver a method for being heard. This bill provides an important step in that direction, and I sincerely urge its adoption.

Aloha,

Jason Fleming, MD

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:54:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Misunas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence DeCosta III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of sb1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:08:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laakea anders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:08:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ava	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:19:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Esteron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Esteron and I am a Paramedic for City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Micah Esteron

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:21:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Kekuawela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:25:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mel Hurley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mel Hurley. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I've worked closely with majority of the EMS workers. They are hard working, over worked, and extremely important to our community.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Mel Hurley

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:27:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Seriguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work at an emergency room and know how hard these EMS employees work. They deserve all the rights they want. They save lives! And I'm the worst conditions. Imagine going into strangers' houses to unknown conditions to help someone. What more of an argument do you need?

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:05:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Levi Archuleta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:20:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Oho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stacey Oho] and I am the Clinical Coordinator for EMS at Kapi'olani Community College. I strongly support SB1572, SD1, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have seen firsthand the challenges and patient commitment the City and County EMTs and Paramedics face with every call, every day. They are a dedicated group of men and women serving the community with the utmost care.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees face. Paramedics, EMTs, and dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest-trained medical providers in unit 10. This service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Stacey Oho

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:20:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eddy Aceret	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is EMT Eddy Aceret and I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Eddy Aceret

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:27:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natacia Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Natacia Garcia and I am a Paramedic for the City & County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB 1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit for City & County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Natacia Garcia

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:30:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Jacobson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jeff Jacobson and I am a Paramedic for C&C EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have been working for C&C EMS over 21 years. In that time I have never seen our staffing and retention issues in such a dire state. Having a bargaining unit dedicated to EMS would go far to help retain the highly trained medical professionals that the community relies upon. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:55:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devin Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Devin Tam and I am a Paramedic working for the City & County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

First of all, thank you all for your dedication as public servants to help make a better Hawaii. Our jobs as EMTs and Paramedics is to keep those in our communities safe and to care for the sick and injured. I've been with Honolulu EMS for 7 years and our department always had problems with various issues whether it be staffing, turnover, equipment/supply, and/or fleet issues. Some of these needs may be specific to EMS which sets us apart from those within our current Bargaining Unit 10. Though faced with a multitude of adversities, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, we all show up everyday to take care of the residents and visitors of Oahu. Every other first responder department currently has their own bargaining unit and it's time Honolulu EMS has it's own to help address these issues. I understand that those opposing a new bargaining unit would create more work with limited staff but that's what the men and women at Honolulu EMS have been doing for years. Call volume is going up every single year but it seems like our personnel list keeps getting smaller. The issues we are facing in EMS are emergencies, and in our profession emergencies cannot wait.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Devin Tam

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:56:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Y Kurosu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jon Kurosu and I am a Paramedic Supervisor at the Hawaii Kai EMS unit with the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have been an employee with EMS for 22 years. I would like to have a bargaining unit of our own who solely represent and align with our values as medical technicians who serve our community 24 hours a day and seven days a week. There are very few common interests our current bargaining unit share. Having our own bargaining unit would allow full and accurate representation to speak on our behalf.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Thank you,

Jon Kurosu

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:03:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Bee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kaipo Bee support BILL SB1572 .

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:05:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruddy Hernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ruddy Hernandez and I am the Paramedic with HESD/City and County EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. We cannot stress enough the needs of all EMS workers who put others before themselves every day and are unable to have their own voice within their bargaining unit. The needs of EMS are polar opposite than the needs of Correctional officers. We need autonomy and independence for the future of retention and recruitment. This allows our department as the backbone of this city when it comes to emergency medicine to create a healthy, competitive and comparable wage and worker needs for our heroes. We work extremely hard and the cost of living and the cost of healthcare is only going up. And the additional requirements that are given to us yearly with no compensation or acknowledgement need immediate change. Please help so our future is bright for you and your family if we are ever needed.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:20:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimie Song	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jamie Song and I am a Fire Captain with The Honolulu Fire Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our communities and visitors alike.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1. Jamie Song

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:27:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Natasha Hee and I am a EMT and Dispatcher for Honolulu EMS. I have been with Honolulu EMS for the past 13 year and I strongly urge you to support my colleagues and I by supporting SB1572.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:34:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Makanaokalani Domingo Gombio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Taylor Gombio and I am an active employee for the City and County of Honolulu’s Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Being a proud EMT for the city, I have come to love this Ohana that I have become apart of. A constant struggle that I have noticed has been the amount of units that are unable to be staffed during my shift. Throughout my time as an EMT there has been consistent closures of units thus increasing the call volume to other outlying units that surround the geographical area that the closed ambulance unit would cover. This affects wait times for members of our community who have called upon us in their time of need. The expectation for turnover times for calls should be as soon as possible, and we always strive and pride ourselves on doing the best we can to tunover as quickly as possible, but through my experience it has led to consistent burnout and tolls on our physical and mental health. At times it does feel as though the demand for medical services is continuously rising, with no sign of relief, or rightful compensation for how hard we work for our communités, our people.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Taylor Gombio

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:40:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Chan	Testifying for City & county of honolulu EMS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michael Chan and I am a paramedic from the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Michael Chan

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:00:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kenneth faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The educational requirements increased tremendously since 1970 when Honolulu Emergency Medical Services was assigned bargaining unit 10. Back in 1970, the ambulance crews were called "ambulance drivers." There were no EMTs or paramedics. Today the paramedic is the highest-trained medical crew member in the ambulance, and to achieve that title requires years of training.

Today the requirements to be a paramedic in Honolulu are

1. Certificate of completion from an approved Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Course
2. Current American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certificate (ACLS)
3. Current American Heart Association Basic Cardiac Life Support Certificate (BLS)
4. Current National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Pediatric Care Certificate (EPC) or Equivalent Pediatric Advanced Life Support(PALS)
5. Current Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Certificate (PHTLS)
6. Current Board of Medical Examiners EMT-P Certificate
7. Current Medical Examiners DOT Certificate
8. Current Hawaii State Drivers License (Class 3)

The license and certifications are renewed every two years and require 60 hours of continued medical education. The educational requirements provide a solid reason to move Honolulu EMS into bargaining unit 16.

Paramedics are the highest-trained medical pre-hospital professionals that provide a service like no other in bargaining unit 10, which has a tremendous impact on the public with morbidity, disability, and mortality and the statistical evidence to support this claim.

The nation is suffering a national crisis of paramedic shortage. Honolulu EMS is no different. Since 2020, Honolulu EMS has hired 124 employees and has lost 117 employees. With 21

ambulance units serving the entire island of Oahu, Honolulu EMS has responded to a record-high call volume in 2021 (~101,000) and 2022 (~104,000). Honolulu paramedics also train other EMTs from neighboring islands and departments to become paramedics. Occupational burnout is high compared to what is found in other health professions. Honolulu EMS is on an accelerated path that needs critical intervention. State legislators should be concerned about the significance of the problems in EMS, such as the causes, effects, and results of high paramedic shortages. Because the public elects legislators, they should be motivated to address these problems and implement goals to solve the issues that negatively affect patient care and improve the overall safety and well-being of the public.

There are many different jobs in bargaining unit 10, therefore, many different pay scales. The wage increases do not differentiate within bargaining unit 10. It is awarded evenly to all of unit 10. How can this be applied relatively in bargaining unit 10 with the vast difference in job duties? In 2014 Honolulu EMS implemented an alternative staffing schedule negotiated outside of the master agreement with the city and county, but today staffing is still an issue. As a 20-year veteran serving as a District Chief and the Chief Steward of Honolulu EMS for UPW, creating bargaining unit 16 for Honolulu EMS will positively impact our employees and the public we serve.

I support SB1572

Thanks and aloha,

Kenneth Faria

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:01:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Belinda Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We humbly ask that you support the Emergency Medical Technicians and Mobile Intensive Care Technician-paramedics of the City & County of Honolulu’s Emergency Medical Services Division in their quest to form a new Bargaining Unit 16. EMS is the only public safety sector without their own bargaining unit and hopes by separating their employees from that of unrelated professions in their current unit 10---which includes Adult Corrections Officers and psychiatric aides---that we may improve our profession by attracting future caregivers, retain much-needed employees, offer better pay and working conditions, and develop a career ladder.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support.

Belinda C.W. Lee, MICT, RN, MPH

Paramedic since 1982

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:10:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Branden Ige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Branden Ige and I am the Paramedic Supervisor of Emergency Medical Services division. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

This would exponentially provide direct avenues towards resolving new and existing challenges within our stressful worklives. Becoming the majority, and only, voice of our own bargaining unit would immediately identify these challenges and hopefully, begin stages of resolution for the sustainability of paramedics, EMTs, and Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD). Ultimately, this will lead to retention, continuity, and longevity of EMS, as the primary provider of advanced pre-hospital emergency medical care for the City and County of Honolulu.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with EMDs provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Branden Ige

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:15:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary L Faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:22:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kanani and I am paramedic with the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Being an employee with Honolulu EMS for 10 years, I've seen the struggles that the department goes through daily. This bill will help us evolve EMS in Honolulu and help us better serve the community, and possibly your 'ohana.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Kanani Adams

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:26:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darcy Shimizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Darcy Shimizu and I am a paramedic of City and County Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. As first responders, such as HFD/HPD I believe we should have the opportunity to be addressed separately being that we are an extremely vital service to the community.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity.

Darcy Shimizu

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:27:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke Fujii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Duke Fujii and I am an EMT for the Honolulu Emergency Services Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. As an EMT for the City and County of Honolulu, I've seen how much EMS has made a difference from simple patient care to the most critical of patients. Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Duke Fujii

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:33:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Fiesta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Fiesta and I am a Detective with the Honolulu Police Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Working for HPD for the past 12 years, I've worked side by side with Honolulu EMS paramedics and EMTs countless times. Those men and women deserve many things however their own bargaining unit is one step in the right direction for advancement of their department and ultimately the community.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Mark Fiesta

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:34:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Ige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Janelle Ige and I am the spouse of a Paramedic Supervisor of Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with EMDs provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Janelle Ige

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:47:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donovan Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Donovan Gomes and I am an EMT for Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB1572.

Giving Emergency Medical Services their own bargaining unit will help address staffing shortages and ensure the residents of Honolulu County continue to receive the best care.

Thank you for the opportunity to give written testimony. I look forward to SB1572 being approved.

Donovan Gomes

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:57:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Niko Fontanilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a paramedic for Honolulu EMS and I fully support this bill.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:00:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Fanelli	Testifying for Honolulu Emergency Medical Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gary Fanelli and I am an emergency medical technician with the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Dept. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for C&C of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Our ongoing staffing shortages results in multiple EMS unit closures some days. This causes us to have to respond to numerous 911 out of our designated areas, which means longer response times and delayed patient care.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Gary Fanelli

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:16:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noa Terada-Pagdilao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Noa Terada-Pagdilao and I am a Paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1

Noa Terada-Pagdilao

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:19:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittnie Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brittnie Lee and I am an EMT and Registered Nurse, as well as a significant other to a City and County EMS paramedic. I fully support SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. Mahalo!

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:19:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Ferrulli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Will Ferrulli and I am an EMT at City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Thank you,

Will Ferrulli

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:22:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1

RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Santiago and I am a Paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Justin Santiago

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:31:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Umeno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ryan Umeno and I am a paramedic of City and County Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have worked in this department for 23 years and have never seen these critical issues we face today. Notably staffing shortages, vital ambulance unit shut downs, equipment shortages, and employee retention to name a few.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity.

Ryan Umeno

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:50:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curt Oishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Curt S. Oishi and I am a retired MICT-Paramedic. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I understand the difficulties of the EMS profession. High stress, high burn out rate, under-representation for fair, competitive compensation. All of these issues, make the job harder, and make it difficult to retain and recruit EMS professionals.

Re categorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Curt S, Oishi

Retired MICT- Paramedic

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:06:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Nelson	Testifying for C&C EMS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Yvonne Nelson and I am a Mobile Intensive CAre technician of City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have been with the City and County EMS for 13 years. I am the second generation of my family to be an MICT for the City. My mom who has worked for 23 years with the city would tell as a child that it was difficult for the unit to advocate for EMS because we were apart of a bargaining unit where we were greatly out numbered. Our current bargaining unit is part of unit 10 that also has the prison guards. The amount of representatives that each department has in the bargaining unit is based on size of the department. Due to the prison guards having the largest department, they would sway the votes in their favor. Anything that was beneficial for EMS,if it was beneficial for the guards, it was automatically denied. This has not helped with any type of retention with our department. Having our own bargaining unit, we can hopefully affect positive change for our members.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Yvonne Nelson

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:16:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nathan otto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nathan Otto and I am an Emergency Medical Tehnician of City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. I have been employed by City and County of Honolulu EMS for almost 3 years now and while my time has been short, this job has taught me many things. By having our own bargaining unit, it allows us the capability of competitve wages that we all hope will entice people to join and stay employed with us. I truly believe that by having our own bargaining unit, it will pave the way to a greater employment and retention rate.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Thankfully,

Nathan Otto

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:19:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonya Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB1572. We are the only first responders that answer to 911 calls that do not have our own unit/union to represent us and address our needs. We are not able to bargain separately from others in unit 10, UPW, which DHR stated at the last hearing. That is a lie. We are suffering serious staffing issues and I do believe that having our own bargaining unit could address some of our unique needs. Please support SB1572.

Thank you for addressing this long overdue issue.

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1

Aloha,

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nainoa Pomaika'i Bishaw-Mokiao and I'm an Emergency Medical Technician with the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have been employed with the City and County of Honolulu EMS just a little over two years. Over these past two years I have noticed a drastic challenge this department has faced. To the point we are short on staff, closing units, short on supplies and most of all having the community wait more than expected for an ambulance to arrive. I can't see myself working in a department/environment with so many problems that's affecting not only myself but my colleagues. It's very sad knowing you're showing up to work with units being closed. It's not just 1 or 2 units, it's gotten to the point where we shut down 12+ units in a day. "I mean it's like showing up to a football championship game without your key players and certain coaches". Would you or a loved one feel safe to be living in a community where your life could be at risk due to an ambulance or staff shortage? Or even to the point that we can't get to you in time cause a unit is responding from one side of the island to the other? These are the challenges we face almost on a daily basis since I've been employed with the department. I love this career and profession, but the longevity and health aspect of this career isn't sustainable. I can't see myself working in a department knowing units will close, supplies will run out and there won't be enough people to staff units. If we are the future of this department, then I humbly ask for your approval in SB1572, SD1. We are the next generation for the next years to come, if we don't do something about it, who will?!

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Sincerely,

Nainoa

Nainoa

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:27:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leaugeay Barnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leaugeay Barnes. I am a paramedic and a paramedic educator working in the state of Hawai'i. I am in strong support of SB1572, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Although I am a medical professional with almost thirty years of experience as both a ground and flight medic, I was forced to call 911 for my mother one week before Christmas for an unexpected medical emergency. I knew I would be doing CPR on my mother with a poor chance of reviving her if help did not arrive quickly. By the time help arrived, my mother's lips were blue; she was struggling to breathe and was no longer aware of her surroundings. Fortunately for our family, the system worked as intended, with Fire arriving within a few minutes, followed quickly by an ambulance. However, with the continuing decline in EMS providers, that will not be the case for some families if we do not make radical changes to retain our critical workforce.

Much like the rest of the nation, Hawai'i continues to struggle with recruiting and retaining enough medical responders to meet the needs of their communities. This was a projected issue prior to the pandemic, with the increase in an aging population requiring more medical attention. The pandemic has exacerbated the problem, with many leaving the workforce for easier, safer, and more lucrative jobs. In addition, the marginalized populations utilizing EMS as their primary access to medical care has also increased, further burdening an already strained system.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) is one step towards addressing the unique challenges EMS employees are currently facing as first responders who are providing a critical service to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572.

Leaugeay C. Barnes, Ed.D, NRP, FP-C

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:29:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather R Silvernail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee: My name is Heather Silvernail and I am the wife of a city paramedic. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees. The unique working conditions, qualifications, and job expectations of EMS sets them apart from others in the current bargaining unit. These great differences impact the needs to be addressed during collective bargaining, which is why this bill is needed. Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1. Heather Silvernail

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:17:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kili Matsushima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Paramedic in support of SB1572.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:28:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Craddolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Craddolph and I am an EMT of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Brian Craddolph

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:28:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon-Lee Kong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brandon-Lee Kong and I am an EMT with the City and County of Honolulu. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:29:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Canhuang zhang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha my name is Allen, I'm a paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu. This job is challenging but also rewarding in so many ways. For a while the City EMS system has been facing challenges throughout the years. I fully support this bill and hope it will create a new opportunity for our department. Thank you for your time in regard to this matter.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:33:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a paramedic in the State of Hawaii, I support this bill to help better our service for the community.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:50:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Fujikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rachel Fujikawa, and I am an MICT of City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Rachel Fujikawa

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:08:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this Bill. Our first responders deserve to have all of the support that this Bill will provide.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:29:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eugene Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eugene Hatakeyama and I am a mobile intensive care technician with the Honolulu Emergency Services Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

With the rapid and evolving challenges we are facing, including COVID 19, the growing needs within our department and of our community, a creation of a separate bargaining unit (16) will allow for a further, concentrated approach, to tackle the current and future issues in our agency. Our colleagues, which include paramedics, EMTs, and dispatchers, are specifically trained to perform a wide range of vital pre-hospital skills, which manage life threatening medical emergencies in our community. SB1572, SD1 will greatly benefit Honolulu EMS. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Eugene Hatakeyama

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:50:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raquel silvernail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD 1

Relating to Collective Bargaining.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Raquel Silvernail and I am a Paramedic for City and County. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

We have been greatly impacted by COVID19, losing critical members of our department to other organizations. With the current collective bargaining unit, we are unable to really address the department specific needs unique to EMS creating the detrimental staffing shortages department wide. Our needs as Emergency care first responders put us at a unique risk for retention with issues like mental health, hazard due to nature of the job, etc. We are asking to be recognized as a separate unit, to address the specific concerns necessary to help aid our retention, overall personal safety and mental health on the job.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD 1.

Raquel Silvernail

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1
RELATINFG TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM
Conference Romm 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Tavajian and I am an MICT II- Paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have only been in this department for nearing five years and have already seen our call volumes drastically increasing, our supply shortages increasing, and our staffing requirements not being met. Many of our struggles have solutions, but require assistance from our union. As it stands, we are a drastic minority within our current bargaining unit (10) which places us at a significant and devastating disadvantage. The majority of our fellow union members are with other agencies and either do not feel educated enough to vote for our suggested changes, or perhaps do not feel vested in our improvement. For this reason, many of our struggles have remained and continue to degrade the care we are able to provide the communities we love. Please hear our plea, and please vote yes for SB1572, SD1, so we can begin to heal our department, and in effect, heal our communities.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu EMS department employees from bargaining unit (10) to bargaining unit (16) will help us address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Stephanie Tavajian

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:20:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan K. Yamagishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Evan Yamagishi and I am a paramedic with the Honolulu City & County Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City & County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Thank You,

Evan Yamagishi

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:26:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystl Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Krystl Matsunaga and I am a Paramedic of the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

This is something that should have been established a long time ago. HPD and HFD have their own unions. Why don't we? We are all first responders, but we don't have a say in our own affairs because we are the minority in bargaining unit (10). There is so much that can be done for us if we are given the chance to be heard.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Krystl Matsunaga

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:31:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Tanouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jared Tanouye and I am a Paramedic of the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

This is something that should have been established a long time ago. HPD and HFD have their own unions, and I think we should too. Having our own bargaining unit is the next best thing to that. There are so many things that we cannot change and cannot do because we are restricted to the same union regulations as other professions within bargaining unit (10). I truly believe this is the first big step into becoming a robust, healthy, and profitable EMS system that the people of Honolulu truly deserve and need.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Jared Tanouye

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 5:32:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron O	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aaron and I am in strong support of SB1572, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into unit (16) will help to address the challenges EMS employees are currently facing as first responders who are providing a critical service to our community.

Given their unique skill set, EMS needs this change in order to increase operational efficiency in a field where lives are at stake. This measure can create more interest in the career field and strengthen retention efforts for current employees.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572.

Aaron

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:19:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordon Takakura-Puha	Testifying for C&C Honolulu EMS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am an employee of C&C Honolulu EMS and I am in full support of this.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:46:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maren Anka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Crus, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the committee-

My name is Maren Anka and I'm paramedic on Maui. I'm am writing in strong support of SB 1572 to create a separate bargaining agreement unit (16) and C&C Honolulu EMS.

I know how difficult the staffing shortages have been impacting the C&C medics, putting a strain on their fragile system that serves so many. If there is any way to help support them for the critical services they provide to the community, I believe they should receive that help.

Recategorizing them from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will allow positive change to occur.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to support SB1572 SD1.

Respectfully,

Maren Anka, MICT

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:01:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corene Peltier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Corene Peltier and I am an EMT with HEMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I am new to this career and working with the City and County of Honolulu so seeing this bill pass would have a great benefit to my future and the future of my family.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Corene

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:10:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kalua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1572.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:20:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern

Honolulu EMS along with the community could really benefit from the passing of SB 1572. Honolulu EMS needs more bargaining power by having their bargaining unit

Please consider passing SB 1572

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:22:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hessam Afshari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an emergency physician working at The Queen’s Medical Center for the past nearly 10 years I have seen firsthand the exceptional work and service of our EMS colleagues. Our state and community depend on them, literally for our livelihood. They are an absolutely underappreciated critical safety net for life that provides the foundation for all of us to live our lives, grow, and enjoy all that we do year after year. That need continues to increase and these EMS personnel continue to sacrifice and give day and night over and over again to meet the ever-rising demand for their skills and service.

I can easily support Honolulu EMS’ initiative to get their own bargaining unit to better support their needs and to keep this critical life-saving service for our community viable and thriving. There are new and many stressors present these days and the proposed restructuring is indicated and needed to identify the changes needed and to manage the challenges present and forthcoming.

Again, being on the frontline with these heroes, I can easily support them and the changes proposed.

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:46:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole E Ikeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee: My name is Nicole Ikeda. I am currently licensed as a State of Hawaii Mobile Intensive Care Technician and formerly served with the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services department. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for C&C of Honolulu EMS employees.

During my almost 14 years with C&C EMS I came to see that employee retention has been one of the most serious issues affecting the department. I saw first hand that staffing shortages and scheduling issues contributed to many good employees' decision to leave the job.

Recategorizing C&C Honolulu EMS Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

I loved my job and the people I worked with, and it was my honor to serve our community. I ask that you equip the EMS department with the tools they need to be safe and succeed in their duties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Nicole Ikeda

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:58:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelli Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelli and I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

As a wife of a MICT, I've seen and personally hear of the struggles that EMS faces. It is tough enough to do what EMS does day in and day out (responding to critical emergencies back to back without any breaks for meals or even to decompress what they just had to deal with), they need this bill so they can get the support they need to continue to do this job.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SBI 572, SD1

Respectfully,

Kelli Yamauchi

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1
RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Zuckernick, and I serve various EMS roles throughout the state. I strongly support SB1572, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

In Hawaii and throughout the nation, recruitment and retention of EMTs and Paramedics are challenging many systems. Shortages experienced here are commonplace in many public safety jurisdictions. EMS leaders now have to be very creative to mitigate the challenges. There are also several national initiatives to address workforce shortages.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees face. Paramedics, EMTs, and dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest-trained medical providers in unit 10; this service is critical to our community.

Jeff Zuckernick

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:01:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agran and members of the committee,

My name is Raymond (Ray) Franco I am a paramedic with the City and County and have 24 years of service. I strongly and with great hope support SB 1572 which will create a separate bargaining unit 16 for City and County Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

My service with the city has been very rewarding and has given me the opportunity for personal growth. EMS has shown me how to lose myself in a job, feel smaller and still be more than I was when I entered. I am a part of something that is so much bigger than me. I am a community resource. Although my profession has offered personal growth it has not been able to keep up with the demands that we face as providers and has not incentivised others to stay. Everyone entering absolutely loves the job. The problem is that they feel unheard and under represented and because of it find the life unsustainable. We lose as many as we recruit and some years more. We represent a very small portion of bargaining unit 10. Our voice and small and often drowned out by our brothers. It is challenging to be a small brother/sister. We find ourselves unable to recruit other members to understand our unique needs, work schedules and concerns. It is difficult to convey the feeling of working 12 hours, holidays and work requirements that demand we often work without a break and when time becomes available we need to restock, refuel and prepare for the next call. There is always a next call. It is very difficult to convince our new employees that this is a career worth pursuing and one to which they should dedicate their lives. New requirements, challenging academic requirements, new procedures, increased call volume and selfless lifestyle is a hard sell. The reward of offering someone another day, birthday, hug from their family and life takes time. They often leave before the reward is fully understood. We can't keep new employees and it translates to high turnover and shortages. We need to be heard and a separate bargaining unit (16) will go a long way to this end.

It is because of this that we need bargaining Unit 16. We need help to be heard and although this will not amplify our voice it will give a voice that will be heard. Everyone deserves to be heard. Please support SB1572. I willfully lose myself in my profession. We just need to be heard and a little bit of attention to our concerns will help.

Respectfully,

Raymond Franco

City and County paramedic

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:08:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Matthew Afaga Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill 1572, SD1 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee: My name is Brent Shimabukuro and I am a paramedic/ MICT . I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Brent Shimabukuro

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:19:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Mcgregor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Theresa Mcgregor, I have been a Supervisor paramedic with the City and County of Honolulu for 20 years. I strongly support SB1572. The future of EMS really does depend on this. By creating our own bargaining unit it will allow us to address critical staffing shortages and expand our services to the community. Mahalo for the support. -Theresa Mcgregor

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:19:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Beggan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alexis Beggan and I am an EMT II in Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have been with EMS for just over a year. I went through the EMS academy last year. While I have not been in this department long, I have seen and heard of the need for change. This new bargaining unit will help our voices be heard to make those changes that our department has been hoping for for a while.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Alexis Beggan

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:19:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kazuo Yamauchi and I am a paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu EMS, and have been with EMS for the past 12 years. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

We have unique challenges that are not shared with the other members of our current bargaining unit. If having our own bargaining unit can help address these issues more quickly and efficiently, it would be in the best interest not only for EMS personnel, but for the community that we serve to have our own separate bargaining unit.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Kazuo Yamauchi

MICT

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:22:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Tomasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Charis Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee

My name is Kay Tomasa and I am a Paramedic with City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services. I am in strong support of SB 1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I have been with the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services going on almost 18 years. I still love my job and believe in what we do & stand for. Over the years the call volume has only increased, even more so with COVID. During the beginning of COVID was the most support I've seen for us. News, social media, even when we go on calls. The support for us should not falter but remain EMS Strong. Supporting SB 1572 is continuing to be EMS Strong for us and the community.

SB 1572 will also help address our critical staffing shortages. We are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10. Paramedics, Dispatchers and EMT's are trained pre-hospital medical providers that is vital for our community.

Mahalo Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1572, SD1.

Kay Tomasa

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:59:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support EMS wanting to create their own bargaining unit. This would be a valuable step forward for an organization that provides consistent and constant care to the public of Oahu.

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 11:23:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Blake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been an ER nurse since 2007 and I've worked closely with EMS over the years. I support separating them into their own bargaining unit. They are facing critical staffing shortages which is leading to burnout and decreased job satisfaction. EMS provides an irreplaceable and imperative service to our community and they deserve to be fully staffed, better compensated and have excellent work/life balance. They put themselves in harms way every day to provide critical treatment to our loved ones. They deserve our support in getting them what they need to perform their job to the best of their availability. They have been overlooked for too long and not valued for the critical service they provide to our community. We need to be there for them so that they can be there for us.

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:36:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Teresa Aquino and I am an EMT II of City and County of Honolulu. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees.

I'd love to make a career out of my job but find it difficult knowing the lack of support in EMS specific needs. We have such a high turnover rate due to pay, a subpar retirement plan, and low moral. We need a bargaining unit that will focus on our needs.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help to address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMTs along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Teresa Aquino

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 4:38:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Auggie Ray Alvarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Auggie Ray Alvarez. I have been employed with Honolulu EMS for about 5 years. I support SB1572.

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:17:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stephanie ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because EMS is it's own entity. It is very different from the other professions included in the current bargaining unit. They have different issues and needs unique to them. We need to listen to the voices of the workers before even more of the workforce leaves. Below is an article on a study that was conducted on healthcare workers who plan to leave. https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackkelly/2022/04/19/new-survey-shows-that-up-to-47-of-us-healthcare-workers-plan-to-leave-their-positions-by-2025/?sh=147801ef395b&fbclid=PAAaYXPY-vhEroj_rIenlFluuUvuE7isB4xOj39gUa0Qiu7dtIqp40nfSBV8

let's pass this bill and give them the support they need to better serve the community.

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 3:32:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LEIGHTON TAKARA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leighton Takara and I am a paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu EMS. I am in strong support of SB1572, SD1 which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for City and County of Honolulu EMS employees.

I have been with the C&C of Honolulu EMS for 8 years. I was an EMT for 6 years then progressed into becoming a paramedic 2 years ago. During my stint, I have seen many hard working and good employees leave our department. Some left for personal reasons, but majority of them left due to "burn out" and a better quality of life. Many went into nursing/physician assistant/nurse practitioner school, AMR (American Medical Response), or the fire department. I, myself have thought about leaving EMS and joining HFD (Honolulu Fire Department). The reason for my thoughts are the continual staffing shortages, station closures, low morale, and the burn out.

In 2012, I graduated from HCC (Honolulu Community College) with a fire science degree. My initial passion was being a fireman. Life threw a curveball which I wasn't able to get into the fire department, however, I was able to get into EMS after additional schooling. It was a blessing because I really love the job and enjoy the services we provide to the public. I have the utmost loyalty to the department along with my friends/co-workers. Unfortunately, our department's morale is low and we are consistently losing many personnel every year. It's getting harder and harder every year to get the status quo up with less personnel and ever increasing 911 call volume.

I am currently 39 years old. I am not married, nor do I have any children. I do have a girlfriend which she does have children of her own. One day, I do plan on marrying her and continue being a role model and "uncle" towards her children. As I plan our future, I'd like to think I'll still be working for EMS but I don't know. The burn out is real and the longevity is uncertain. I am not a quitter and I am loyal to this department, but my family comes first.

I believe that placing our department into its own bargaining unit will induce "change" for the greater good. I understand that the changes won't happen any time soon, perhaps not even in my career of service, but it's the right move in the right direction.

Recategorizing City and County of Honolulu EMS department employees from bargaining unit (10) into bargaining unit (16) will help address the critical staffing shortages EMS employees are currently facing. Paramedics and EMT's along with dispatchers provide a unique pre-hospital service and are the highest trained medical providers in unit 10, this service is critical to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1572, SD1.

Leighton Takara

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:59:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Archuleta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our EMT's provide an essential emergency service in health & safety to all people statewide, they deserve to have a union which will look out for their very specific needs & fight for what will help them provide these services.

Everyone in the State of Hawaii will benefit if the EMTs have a bargaining unit that will address their issues & concerns. They need a Union that will propose & fight for improvements regarding staffing, housing, vehicles, supplies, the growing population & increasing needs for EMT services. These are major concerns that affect so many people throughout the State of Hawaii. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-1572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:37:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabin Archuleta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

they need more suport from you....