



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

*"Quality Healthcare For All"*

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**  
**Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair**

April 2, 2024  
4:00 PM  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 308 & Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Support of SB 3126, SD1, HD1**  
**RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES**

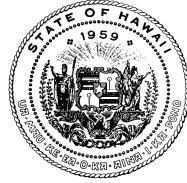
Establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000. Requires cost-sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and Counties of Hawai'i, Kauai, and Maui. Authorizes deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund. Requires rulemaking. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000.

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

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of SB 3126, SD1, HD1 Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services.**

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

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



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3126 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.**

REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 2, 2024

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** HB1800 SD1 includes a recurring \$29M appropriation for a statewide,  
2 state-operated air ambulance system. However, various configurations may reduce cost.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the establishment  
4 of a more reliable and resilient air ambulance system that is equitably accessible to all Hawaii  
5 residents.

6 DOH continues to negotiate with county stakeholders, each of which has very different needs  
7 and varying degrees of infrastructure, and there is general acknowledgement that SB3126 HD1's  
8 movement through the Legislature has stimulated county interest.

9 Since no county has yet agreed to a specific cost-sharing and it is unlikely that negotiations will  
10 conclude in any one county, much less for four counties, by sine die, DOH is recommending a  
11 HD2 PROPOSED that establishes a full-time state-funded statewide air ambulance system  
12 administered by the Department of Health, which will dispatch air ambulances through a  
13 centralized system of rotary aircraft deployed to each county. In addition to medical evacuation,  
14 the rotary aircraft may also be dispatched for fire suppression, search and rescue, and law  
15 enforcement activities required by the counties. The annual recurring costs for this system is  
16 likely to be less than the appropriation in HB1800 SD1.

17 The HD2 PROPOSED contrasts with the original SB3126, which established a backup air  
18 ambulance system that is cost-shared by the counties. Should the Legislature determine that a

1 state-funded and state-operated air ambulance system is the appropriate policy to assure  
2 equitable access to life-saving medical transport for all Hawaii's residents, the HD2 PROPOSED  
3 provides DOH the flexibility for variable implementation models.

4 Background

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

11 Deployment Model and Operational Considerations

12 DOH proposes contracting four rotary aircraft capable of inter-island flight and large enough to  
13 accommodate flight crew, medical crew, bariatric patients and equipment such as isolettes used  
14 to maintain environments for babies who required critical care. Maintenance costs, and certain  
15 infrastructure such as hangars and ready rooms for flight crew may be negotiated with private  
16 health systems or procured outright by the State. DOH will also need to establish and operate a  
17 centralized dispatch system.

18 Counties are required to submit all information to DOH required for third-party reimbursement.  
19 All revenues are deposited into the emergency medical services special fund for purposes of  
20 supporting the program.

21 DOH respectfully requests SB3126 SD2 HD1 move forward as HD2 PROPOSED so  
22 negotiations may continue.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**SB3126 HD2 PROPOSED**

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SECTION 1. The legislature finds that most rural communities have fewer health care resources compared to residents on Oahu, including access to advanced levels of trauma care, medical specialists, and sub-specialists. This puts patients in these underserved areas at greater risk of poor outcomes for serious medical conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, and traumatic bodily injuries.

The existing system of interisland transport of patients for health care services is overburdened. The State is currently served by only one interisland aeromedical provider, for which there are few viable and cost-effective alternatives in the event of a grounding, for example, due to maintenance issues or crew availability. Emergency aeromedical services are also not available for many patients in rural counties.

The legislature further finds that disruptions to interisland medical transports pose a risk to human health and safety, and therefore the consistent availability of interisland medical transport and the overall resiliency of emergency aeromedical services must be improved.

1 Section 321-224 requires the department of health to  
2 establish emergency medical services throughout the  
3 service area, including emergency aeromedical services.  
4 Pursuant to section 321-228, the department of health  
5 shall determine the level of emergency services  
6 implemented in each county, and the department of health  
7 may contract to provide emergency medical services,  
8 including emergency aeromedical services, as a component  
9 of a county's emergency medical services system.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ensure the  
11 availability of air ambulance services through the  
12 establishment of an emergency aeromedical services system  
13 administered by the department of health.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be  
16 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

17 **"§321- State emergency aeromedical**  
18 **services system; established.** (a) The department shall  
19 establish, administer, and maintain an emergency  
20 aeromedical services system. The system shall include,  
21 at a minimum, four rotary aircraft, with one based in  
22 each of the counties of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Honolulu.  
23 The department shall consult with the advisory committee  
24 pursuant to section 321-225 to implement this section.

1 The department may contract all or parts of the emergency  
2 aeromedical services system.

3 (b) The department may enter into a memorandum of  
4 agreement with the county of Kauai, county of Maui,  
5 county of Hawaii, and county of Honolulu for purposes of  
6 providing emergency aeromedical services.

7 (c) Any county that provides or is responsible for  
8 the provision of emergency aeromedical services shall  
9 submit to the department all necessary information for  
10 purposes of submitting claims for third-party  
11 reimbursement within thirty days of the emergency  
12 aeromedical service provided. Funds received from  
13 reimbursements shall be deposited into the emergency  
14 medical services special fund, established pursuant to  
15 section 321-234.

16 (d) The department shall administer an emergency  
17 aeromedical services dispatch system. Any county that  
18 provides or is responsible for the provision of emergency  
19 aeromedical services shall be required to have all of its  
20 aeromedical services dispatched only through the  
21 department's dispatch system. Private aeromedical  
22 services providers may participate in the department's  
23 dispatch system.

24 (e) The department shall establish statewide  
25 standards for the emergency aeromedical services system

1 consistent with this part and applicable federal  
2 regulations for those services.

3 (f) The director of health shall adopt rules  
4 pursuant to chapter 91 to effectuate the purposes of this  
5 section.

6 (g) No later than January 4, 2026, the department  
7 shall adopt interim rules, which shall be exempt from  
8 chapter 91 and chapter 201M, to effectuate the purposes  
9 of this section; provided that the interim rules shall  
10 remain in effect until July 1, 2028, or until rules are  
11 adopted pursuant to subsection (f), whichever occurs  
12 sooner.

13 (h) The department may amend the interim rules, and  
14 the amendments shall be exempt from chapters 91 and 201M,  
15 to effectuate the purposes of this section; provided that  
16 any amended interim rules shall remain in effect until  
17 July 1, 2028, or until rules are adopted pursuant to  
18 subsection (f), whichever occurs sooner."

19 SECTION 3. Section 321-232, Hawaii Revised  
20 Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read  
21 as follows:

22 "(a) The department shall establish reasonable fees  
23 for services rendered to the public within the service  
24 area by the department, any county within the service  
25 area, or private agency under this part; provided that

1 all revenues collected by the department and the  
2 respective counties pursuant to this section shall be  
3 deposited into the state general fund, except [~~amounts~~]:

4 (1) Amounts necessary to provide for collection services for bad debt accounts[-];  
5 and

6 (2) Funds received from reimbursements for emergency aeromedical services and  
7 deposited into the emergency medical services special fund pursuant to section 321-  
8 234(c).

9 Fees required to be set by this section shall be  
10 established in accordance with chapter 91."

11 SECTION 4. Section 321-234, Hawaii Revised  
12 Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read  
13 as follows:

14 "(c) Fees remitted pursuant to section 249-31,  
15 cigarette tax revenues designated under section 245-15,  
16 interest and investment earnings attributable to the  
17 moneys in the special fund, legislative appropriations,  
18 and grants, donations, [~~and~~] contributions from private  
19 or public sources for the purposes of the fund, and funds  
20 received from reimbursements for emergency aeromedical  
21 services pursuant to section 321- \_\_\_\_\_, shall be deposited  
22 into the special fund."  
23

24 SECTION 5. Act 2 SLH 2003 Special Session, as amended  
25 by Act 213 SLH 2007, is repealed.



1 SECTION 6. In accordance with section 9 of article  
2 VII of the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91  
3 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has  
4 determined that the appropriations contained in Act 164,  
5 Regular Session of 2023, and this Act will cause the  
6 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year  
7 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$ or per  
8 cent. This current declaration takes into account  
9 general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal year  
10 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this  
11 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund  
12 expenditure ceiling are that:

- 13 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary  
14 to serve the public interest; and  
15 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the  
16 needs addressed by this Act.

17 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or  
19 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-  
20 2025 to be deposited into the emergency medical services  
21 special fund.

22 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the  
23 emergency medical services special fund the sum of  
24 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for

1 fiscal year 2024-2025 for the establishment of the  
2 emergency aeromedical services partnership program.

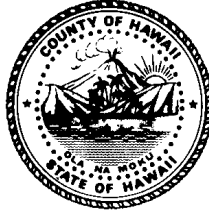
3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
4 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is  
6 bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is  
7 underscored.

8 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1,  
9 3000.

10

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



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

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

March 31, 2024

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB3126 SD1 HD1 Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services  
Hearing: April 2, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Aloha,

On behalf of myself and Council District 8 in North Kona, I am expressing our strong support for SB3126.

This bill establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health for the Counties, and requires cost sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. This bill also authorizes deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and appropriates funds.

Supporting SB3126 is essential for ensuring timely access to critical care for patients in Hawai'i County, and will facilitate efficient transportation of critical care patients to Oahu, where they can receive the vital medical attention they need. Moreover, the bill's provisions for cost-sharing and revenue-sharing between the state and counties ensure sustainable funding for program operations and maintenance.

It is imperative that we support this life-saving measure for critical care patients. I urge you to pass SB3126 SD1 HD1.

Sincerely,

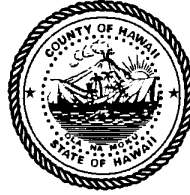
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holeka Goro Inaba".

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

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Deanna Sako**  
*Managing Director*



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

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

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

March 31, 2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB3126 SD1 FROM HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Aloha Honorable Members of the Legislature,

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

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

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

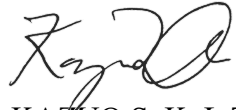
Emergency situations, such as heart attacks, strokes, and severe injuries, require prompt specialized care that is often not available in rural areas. The current limitation of having only one interisland aeromedical provider has been a significant bottleneck in our ability to provide the highest level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

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



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

With warmest aloha,

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

KAZUO S. K. L TODD  
Fire Chief

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 8:51:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawaii County Councilmember Cindy Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

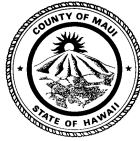
We need this asset to respond to crisis and save lives.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

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




Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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

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

April 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 2, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3126,  
SD1, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES**

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

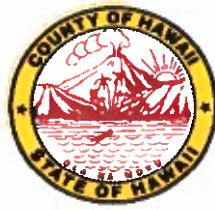
I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Deanna S. Sako**  
*Managing Director*

**Robert H. Command**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**County of Hawaii**  
**Office of the Mayor**

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 1, 2024

Committee on Finance  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: **S.B. 3126, SD1, HD1 - RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES**  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.  
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Finance,

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I express my **strong support of S.B. 3126, SD1, HD1**, which would establish an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population of less than 500,000.

This measure represents a key step in bridging a critical gap in our healthcare framework, especially for the underserved rural and remote communities of our island and neighboring counties. The disparities in accessing immediate and advanced medical care are not just logistical challenges, they are matters of life and death

This bill's proposal to bolster the infrastructure for emergency aeromedical services, inspired by the successful model in Maui County, aligns with our objective to improve patient outcomes through prompt and effective medical interventions. By establishing a partnership program as outlined in S.B. 3126, SD1, HD1, we not only increase the resilience of our emergency medical system but also ensure that critical care is readily available when and where it is most urgently needed.

I **strongly support** the passage of S.B. 3126, SD1, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor  
County of Hawai'i



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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### Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

#### House Committee on Finance

April 2, 2024; 4:00 PM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of

#### Senate Bill 3126 SD1 HD1 Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i submits **comments** on SB 3126 SD1 HD1 which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000; requires cost-sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and the County of Hawai'i, County of Kaua'i, and County of Maui; authorizes deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund; requires rulemaking; and appropriates funds.

In light that existing aeromedical services provided by the existing fixed-wing aircraft under certain circumstances might not be available or there is backlog or significant delay, the County of Kaua'i supports the concept of having a backup aeromedical rotary-wing aircraft which may also be utilized for fire suppression of wildfires. However, with the lack of clear information regarding the expenses and the monetary responsibilities for the counties and the Department of Health, more dialogue is necessary before the County of Kaua'i can support this or any version of the proposed bill.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Finance

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

Date: April 2, 2024

Re: Support for SB3126 SD1 HD1 – Relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services

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The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB3126 SD1 HD1, which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000. Our most vulnerable and high risk patients deserve a reliable interisland aeromedical service provider in the event of an emergency. We have observed patients from neighbor island facilities, including Molokai General Hospital and North Hawai'i Community Hospital, with serious medical conditions ranging from complicated pregnancies to cardiovascular failure in desperate need of medical attention having to wait to be airlifted and treated on Oahu. With only a single service provider in a State that experiences on average 2,500 air ambulance trips per year, a more stable and reliable solution is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB3126 SD1 HD1.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



March 30, 2024

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitigawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Legislature

### **Support for SB3126 SD1 HD1**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Chair Kitigawa, and Members of the Committees on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3126 SD1 HD1, establishing an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program with the Department of Health and the counties of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island.

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

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

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

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

Members of the Kohala Coast Resort Association pay more than \$40 million in TAT and \$40 million in GET to the state each year. We believe the investment of these resources from the general fund will not only benefit the 5,000 employees and their 20,000 family members on Hawaii Island, but also the 1.6 million visitors who come to our island each year. Mahalo for your support of SB3126 SD1 HD1.

Sincerely,

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

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director



*Helping Those Who Help All Of Us*

To the Honorable Finance Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee.

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

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

mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com

808.325.5456  
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info@DanielSayreFoundation.net  
<http://DanielSayreFoundation.net>  
*We are a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization*

PO Box 1285  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745

Tuesday, April 2, 2024; 4:00 pm  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

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

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 3126, SD1, HD1  
Relating To Emergency Aeromedical Services**

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

**I write in support of SB 3126, SD1, HD1** which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health (DOH) in counties with a population of less than 500,000. The measure also proposes cost sharing for the program operations and maintenance, and revenue sharing between the State and the counties of Hawai'i, Kauai and Maui.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 2, 2024

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 3126 SD1 HD1– RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3126 SD1 HD1, which establishes an Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program to be administered by the Department of Health in counties with a population less than 500,000 and requires cost-sharing for program operations and maintenance and revenue sharing between the State and the County of Hawai‘i, County of Kauai, and County of Maui while authorizing deposits into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and require rulemaking.

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

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 7:28:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerald Kosaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, my name is Gerald Kosaki and I am in support of SB 3126. I am a retired fire fighter from the Hawaii Fire Department on the island of Hawaii. During my last 9 years in the department, I worked as a Battalion Chief in charge of Special Operations. My duties included overseeing technical rescue, hazardous materials response, and ocean safety. While in my position, I have had the opportunity and privilege of working with Laura Mallery-Sayre and the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation. Over the years, this foundation has purchased of a multitude of needed life-saving equipment for our department that has helped us serve our community. Now, this amazing foundation has secured funding for an Airbus H145, twin engine, medevac helicopter that is scheduled to arrive in December of 2025. The primary purpose of this aircraft is to provide critical care transport directly from Hawaii island hospitals to the trauma center on Oahu, especially when time is of the essence and the Life-flight transport is either unavailable, delayed, or deemed too dangerous for transport. The transport time to Oahu would take only about 1½ hours to 2 hours depending on which hospital the patient is flown out from. Currently, our capability is to use a fixed wing transport that can take up to 7 to 8 hours and require multiple ambulance exchanges during transport. SB 3126 will help to drastically reduce this time response while providing better care for our critical need patients, and ultimately, save lives.

Operational support for these EMS helicopters is critical right now as we prepare for the delivery of our helicopter H145. The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation will be one of your public partners in the Emergency Aeromedical Services Partnership Program. The Sayre Foundation has already expanded their support to the Maui Fire Department and will also look to support Kauai with similar life-saving programs. Therefore, we ask for your help and support. Thank you

Gerald Kosaki

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 8:16:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dean Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Honorable Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair and Honorable Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair.

Please accept my written testimony regarding SB3126, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1240-24).

Please support the Hawai'i Fire Department - Fire Chief Kazuo Todd who has submitted the request for \$4M to start the funding of the new Airbus H145 Aeromedical Helicopter implementation costs.

I fully support this endeavor which allows for a much needed supplementary EMS Helicopter Air Ambulance infrastructure to be established on Hawai'i Island which will allow for rapid transport of outer island emergent patients in need of critical care treatment at the Level 1 trauma centers, which are only available on Oahu.

There is no price that can be placed on a life, especially a life that could be saved by this emergency apparatus.

Mahalo



**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 2:59:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Anne Leake and I live in Kaneohe. I am I retired nurse practitioner and practiced for 30 years in the community health centers in Hawaii. I lived part time on Lanai during summers and on the weekends. I was able to purchase insurance for emergency transport to Oahu for the piece of mind it gave me. I believe that this bill will provide for this piece of mind for all residents of neighbor islands. Mahalo.

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 3:01:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this critical bill which is vital to the health and well being of neighbor island citizens

Mahalo,

Deborah Nehmad

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 5:28:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
s west	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3126. We on the Big Island desperately need emergency flight services to get people to Oahu in a timely manner. We have to olarge of a land area with not enough emergency transportation available to handle our population and not enough hospital space and services to handle the load. Mahalo

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 5:45:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Frank Sayre and I'm a retired dentist who practiced on the Big Island for over 40 years. During that time I have witnessed numerous occasions when critically ill or injured patients needed to be transported to the large hospitals on Oahu because the needed care or treatment was not available over here. Because of the length of time needed for the fixed wing transport and ground transport, sometimes the outcomes were not good. We need this helicopter service 24/7/365 for our residents and visitors to be able to receive this timely lifesaving critical care. Thankyou on behalf of the lives saved.

**Patti Cook**



**TO: State House Committee on Finance – Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and Committee Members**

**SUPPORT for SB3126 SD1 HD1 - RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES - Hearing @ 4PM, Tues., April 2, 2024**

**MAHALO** for scheduling this hearing. Please expedite approval of **SB 3126 SD1 HD1** including essential funding to create an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to significantly improve emergency healthcare response time for the people of the rural/remote Counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i,

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

Until we have a personal experience with a medical emergency here on Hawai'i Island – or Maui or Kauai - requiring air transport to a Honolulu trauma center, we might not fully grasp why this program is urgently needed. The following testimony was submitted to the House Committees on Health and Homelessness and Transportation on March 15, 2024 by Craig Anderson/Mauna Kea Resort – explaining why the new Airbus 145 twin engine medivac helicopter gifted to Hawai'i Island is so critical:

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

For Hawai'i Island, this proposed program would help expedite and facilitate the administrative, training, facilities, personnel, and other supports needed to be able to immediately put into service upon receipt in December 2025 the new Airbus H145 helicopter, gifted to the people of Hawai'i County by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation.

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

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

**Patti Cook**, Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 6:51:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Your kokua and support will save lives on the Big Island. Mahalo plenty!

ross wilson jr

Kailua-Kona

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 7:33:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

The Hawaii Island community continues to show our commitment toward a better island, through the generous donation of the helicopters recently donated through the Sayre Foundation. This commitment and future generosity is only possible with a shared commitment from our government to support the community when they need it most..Opportunities such as this only happen when you support the community as well. We ask for your unwavering support in this process by funding now and into the future the staffing and training necessary for this amazing opportunity. Medical care in Hawaii ia an enormous issue and must be supported by our leaders.

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 8:28:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeremie Evangelista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve this so that we can hire and train pilots, life flight nurses and Critical Care EMTs to fly patients from the Big Island to Honolulu in a timely fashion if their lives depend on this rapid transport from hospital to hospital. Training for night vision capabilities alone will cost \$330,000.00 per year for the six pilots for 24/7 service. We need this funding now to prepare for the arrival of the H145. Every letter of support counts so please take just a few minutes to help our community get this much needed support.



**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 10:10:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SC3126. Thank you for your consideration of my support of this measure.

Aloha.

Nancy Taylor

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 1:33:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariko Sakita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a resident of Kohala Ranch on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am submitting this testimony to support The Sayre Foundation and their request for this Committee to appropriate Hawaii Island the \$4M it is requesting to run this vital life-saving program!! We urge the Committee members to support this start up funding so that The Sayre Foundation can hire and train pilots, life flight nurses and Critical Care EMTs to fly patients from the Big Island to Honolulu in a timely fashion if their lives depend on this rapid transport from hospital to hospital. Training for night vision capabilities alone will cost \$330,000.00 per year for the six pilots for 24/7 service. We need this funding now to prepare for the arrival of the H145. The Sayre Foundation's work and committment to the safety of our island's residents and communities is vital to the future and sustainability of our island. Mahalo for your support. Sincerely, Mariko Sakita

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 2:51:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support. Mahalo.

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 6:57:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in support of SB3126 SD1 HD1 which would authorize an emergency aeromedical services for the residents of Hawai'i, Maui and Kauai counties. This would make it easier for the residents of rural islands to access the critical care they need

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 6:59:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable House Committee on Finance,

I urge you to please support SB3126: RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.

Medical facilities on the outer islands lack certain life saving technology that is only available on O’ahu. A resident on an outer island who requires a lifesaving procedure, that is not locally available, depends on the availability of air ambulance services. Time can be a critical factor in a patient's survivability.

Please support SB3126 as it will ensure that Hawaii residents have access to the lifesaving care that they need.

Thank you for all you do for the people of Hawaii!

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 7:58:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
George Maragos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill SB3126 will save life's...

It may be one of your loved ones or even your own !

Thank You For Your Concerderation.

George N Maragos

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:22:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

IN SUPPORT

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 4:12:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Shepard, DDS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of having life saving equipment and personnel for the BIG ISLAND.



**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:22:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please consider this funding as it is so very important to our Big Island community. As someone that has directed over \$1M to healthcare and emergency response on this island I am very keen to support a rapid response capability to transfer patients from hospital to hospital....especially with the arrival of the new H145 helicopter. Thank you so much for your support.

Sarah Comerford

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:34:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Rick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii island needs this in order to provide access for critical care not available on this island. We have secured funding for the vehicle thru generous donations. This bill will provide funding for training and maintainance.

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:42:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ed Teixeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB 3126 1 HD1 and urge your esteemed Committee to pass this measure. Having had a family member transported to Oahu for acute medical care underscores the importance and need of life-saving resources available to all neighbor island citizens including visitors. I believe the specifics, which are clearly outlined in this bill provides the State Department of Health to adopt policies and rules to make this work.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and others that are in support of this important measure.

Ed Teixeira



**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:51:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!

WILL SAVE LIVES!

MAHALO!

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:59:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a physician and resident of Kailua-Kona and have had priviliges at Kona Community Hospital since 1994. I have seen many l8ves saved by timely transport to Honolulu ant Queens Hospital. The west side of Hawaii need these services to continue and improve. The propose Bill HB 3126 would fulfill this worth goal.

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:56:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily T Gail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I sincerely hope this bill passes as we need all the help we can get to get our fire Department trained for emergency services. I have lived on the Big Island for 35+ years and have seen how important the Hawaii County Fire Department and Rescue Service have been to all who live and/or visit the Big Island. I was at the Daniel Sayre Foundation dedication for the new Helicopter we have on the Big Island. We need the start-up funding so that pilots can be hired and trained. I am aware of the need for Critical Care EMTs to fly patients from the Big Island to Honolulu quickly when needed. I do not want to move from the Big Island however I know these services are needed for all of us to feel confident if our lives depend on rapid transport from hospital to hospital. These conversations about the need for emergency services and the lack of funding I find are going on more frequently with my friends and neighbors all the time. I am grateful for the funding that has come in the past that I may not be aware of and grateful for the Daniel Sayre Foundation's efforts to get us all involved as we have all benefited from what services we have received. This funding for training for the new helicopter is to me the most critical to date for Big Island residents and visitors. Mahalo for supporting every way possible. Me ke aloha pumehana. Emily T Gail

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:58:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tammi Bongoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This service is critical for the islands outside of Oahu. All residents with critical emergency needs have no choice but to rely on these given our lack of appropriate infrastructure and shortage of doctors and clinicians. If passed, this bill would save many lives. Without this, our lives are at risk and many people thinking about moving to the neighbor islands (critical to the economy) will be deterred.

To: Hawaii State House Committees on Finance

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday April 2, 2024, 4:00pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 308 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports SB3126 SD1 HD1 relating to RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.

Dear Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, and members of the Committees on Finance

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support SB3126 SD1 HD1 relating to Emergency Aeromedical Services.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB3126 SD1 HD1.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong



**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:32:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Carr Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Nancy Carr Smith, and I am from Hawaii Island. I stand in strong support of SB 3126. The rural nature of Hawaii Island, coupled with the overall size of our island, makes dealing with traumas and medical emergencies very challenging to say the least. It can take patients many hours, or days to get the transport that they sometimes need to be taken to Oahu for specialized services.

We are fortunate enough to have donors who are purchasing sophisticated helicopters for us, but we need the funding for pilots, training and maintenance. This is a win win situation, where you can help be a part of something that you don't have to fully pay for!

This start up funding request of \$4M will go toward hiring and training pilots, life flight nurses and Critical Care EMTs to fly patients from the Big Island to Honolulu in a timely fashion if their lives depend on the rapid transport from hospital to hospital. We need this funding now to prepare for the arrival of the Airbus H145 Helicopter. Please, please support our efforts to save lives!

With warm aloha,

Nancy Carr Smith



**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:34:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha-

I am writing in STRONG SPPORT of SB 3126 relating to EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES.

The state desparately needs to create a public-private partnership to improve the health and well being of outer-island residents, especially those in remote areas of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.

Through private donors and public non-profits like the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation, incredible donations have been made to bolster the equipment our first responders use in dealing with residents that are in need of help.

By passing this legislation, you will help create a pathway for such donations to be put to good use ...which ultimately will save lives.

Michael J. Konowicz  
Waikoloa, HI



April 1, 2024

House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

**Re: Letter of Support – SB 3126, SD1, HD1  
Committee on Finance, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 4:00 pm**

My name is Riley Smith. I am a lifelong resident of the State of Hawaii and have lived on Hawaii island since 1993. I stand in strong support of SB 3126. The rural nature of our Island, coupled with the distance between our many towns and that of our first responder facilities, require us to be creative in addressing our medical emergency needs. With the sheer size of the island and distance between medical facilities, it can take patients many hours, in order to be transported to Oahu for specialized services.

On Hawaii island, we are fortunate enough to have donors who are willing to purchase sophisticated equipment and other vital first responder gear. However, after this equipment is donated to the County, it is up to us to fund the necessary pilots, training and maintenance personnel. This is a win-win situation, where we all can benefit from this essential equipment/services, that we didn't have to purchase!

This start-up funding request of \$4M will go toward hiring and training pilots, life flight nurses and Critical Care EMTs to fly patients from Hawaii island to Honolulu. This transport will occur in a timely fashion, so that necessary specialized care can continue. We need this funding now to prepare for the arrival of the Airbus H145 Helicopter. Please, please support our efforts to save lives!

Mahalo,

Riley W. Smith. P.E.

Kathy Matsuda



TO: State House Committee on Finance – Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and Committee Members

SUPPORT for SB3126 SD1 HD1 - RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES - Hearing @ 4PM, Tues., April 2, 2024

MAHALO for scheduling this hearing. Please expedite approval of SB 3126 SD1 HD1 including essential funding to create an emergency aeromedical services public-private partnership program to significantly improve emergency healthcare response time for the people of the rural/remote Counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i,

The following testimony was submitted to the House Committees on Health and Homelessness and Transportation on March 15, 2024 by Craig Anderson/Mauna Kea Resort – explaining why the new Airbus 145 twin engine medivac helicopter gifted to Hawai'i Island is so critical:

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

For Hawai'i Island, this proposed program would help expedite and facilitate the administrative, training, facilities, personnel, and other supports needed to be able to immediately put into service upon receipt in December 2025 the new Airbus H145 helicopter, gifted to the people of Hawai'i County by the Daniel R. Sayre Foundation.

To repeat I am in SUPPORT for SB3126 SD1 HD1 - RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES

Mahalo,

*Kathy Matsuda*, Resilience Hub Coordinator

North Kohala, Hawai'i Island

TESTIMONY OF  
SHERMAN WARNER



**TO: State House Committee on Finance** – Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and Committee Members

**SUPPORT** for SB3126 SD1 HD1 - RELATING TO EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICES hearing at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mahalo for scheduling this hearing.

As an elderly Hawaii Island resident, I am frequently reminded of the healthcare compromises we make when we chose to make our homes on Hawaii Island – the physician shortage, the limited facilities, and the distance to an airport served by fixed-wing medevac aircraft. If we haven't experienced the need for medevac transportation to Oahu ourselves, we know people who have, and we're thankful when they reach Oahu's medical assets in time.

On Hawai'i Island, we are fortunate and thankful that the Sayre Foundation has gifted Hawai'i County with a new twin-engine Airbus H145 helicopter, arriving in December 2025, however putting this sophisticated piece of equipment into immediate life-saving service requires the prompt implementation of a public/private partnership to facilitate the needed administrative, training, facilities, and personnel support. Accomplishing this preparation requires funding during the 2024 Legislative session.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-3126-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:47:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clayton McGhan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB3126 SD1 HD1