

1. I am interested in joining the Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee to acquire a comprehensive understanding of innovative strategies for enhancing pre-hospital care. My objective is to share insights gained from my experiences on the 911 ambulance and to engage in discussions focused on improving the overall emergency care system, particularly in relation to the retention and recruitment of paramedics and EMTs, as well as the effective allocation of resources.

2. This committee serves as an advisory body to the Department of Health on matters impacting Hawaii's pre-hospital emergency care and emergency services.

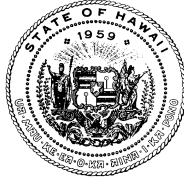
3. With nearly 21 years of dedicated service to Honolulu Emergency Medical Services, I commenced my career as an EMT providing essential life support before advancing to the position of paramedic, where I delivered advanced medical life support. Subsequently, I undertook supervisory roles, providing oversight for Advanced Life Support (ALS) within the aging unit and facilitating the training of new recruits, including EMTs and paramedics. Currently, I hold the position of District Chief, managing multiple units and personnel on a daily basis. Furthermore, I have actively participated in union activities, serving as a steward and chief steward over several years, collaborating with the union (UPW) and management to enhance working conditions within the high-volume Honolulu EMS system. I am acutely aware of the national shortage of paramedics and EMTs and aspire to contribute to addressing these concerns while improving the quality of pre-hospital emergency care.

4. I look forward to learning from fellow committee members and gaining insights about optimizing Honolulu EMS operations. Additionally, I aim to share my experiences, perspectives, and strategies, and I welcome constructive feedback to refine these ideas. I am committed to advancing Honolulu EMS, particularly given the high call volume we encounter and the training opportunities we provide to other islands.

5. I believe that my daily interactions with colleagues, management, and patients cultivate an environment of honesty and dedication to my role. I recognize the critical importance of these professions in serving the community and am motivated to ensure that current and future professionals in this field can fully dedicate themselves to their work, underpinned by strong organizational support.

6. Recently, I undertook the initiative to establish a separate bargaining unit for Honolulu EMS, a significant effort aimed at creating a dedicated platform to address the specific concerns of paramedics and EMTs. This endeavor necessitated nearly four years of collaborative efforts with both the union and legislators. I was driven by the conviction that the profession deserves focused attention to effectively devise and implement improvements within our system, encompassing employee concerns from all perspectives, including mental health.

7. As this will be my first experience serving on this committee, I do not foresee any immediate challenges. However, should any issues arise, I will address them transparently with the committee, seeking guidance to resolve conflicts effectively. My intention is to serve with integrity, ensuring that my actions and efforts align with the highest standards of professionalism throughout my term.



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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0575
Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth M. Faria Jr. for Emergency Medical Services Advisory
Committee

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 28, 2025

Room Number: 225

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) support this measure and offers
2 comments.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch
4 (EMSIPSB) submits this testimony on behalf of the Department in support of the confirmation of
5 Kenneth M. Faria Jr. as a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee
6 (EMSAC).

7 Mr. Faria brings a wealth of experience to the table, having dedicated over two decades to the
8 Honolulu Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He began his career as an Emergency Medical
9 Technician (EMT) in April 2004, where he participated in a structured training program and was
10 actively involved in providing emergency medical services at accident scenes, in transit, and
11 within medical facilities. His professionalism and commitment to excellence quickly gained him
12 the respect of his colleagues.

13 Currently, Mr. Faria serves as the Field Operations Supervisor for Honolulu EMS, where he is
14 responsible for planning, directing, and supervising ambulance field operations. He oversees
15 critical training programs, coordinates ambulance dispatching, and manages the scheduling of
16 personnel. His leadership in these areas has contributed significantly to the smooth operation of
17 EMS services and the continued delivery of excellent prehospital care.

1 Mr. Faria's dedication to emergency medical services and his extensive experience make him a
2 highly qualified candidate for the EMSAC. His leadership, expertise, and long-standing
3 commitment to the field will undoubtedly contribute to the continued development and success
4 of emergency medical services across the state.

5 We strongly urge your support for Mr. Kenneth M. Faria Jr. as he brings his knowledge and
6 leadership to the EMSAC, ensuring the continued excellence of emergency medical services in
7 our community.

8 We have been informed that, due to work commitments, Mr. Faria Jr. will not be able to attend
9 the hearing.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and for your consideration.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Friday, February 28, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FARIA JR., for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, 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** GM575, which nominates Mr. Kenneth Faria, Jr. to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Mr. Faria has been employed by the Honolulu Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") since 2004. In his more than two decades of service, he has worked his way up from Emergency Medical Technician to Field Operations Supervisor—a position where he coordinates prehospital medical care and oversees training for those under his supervision as a District Chief.

Outside of his exemplary service to our community at Honolulu EMS, Mr. Faria previously served as a Chief Steward and a member of the Bargaining Unit-10 Executive Negotiating Committee. He currently serves as a member of the Joint Labor Management Committee, where he continues to advocate for the needs of EMS members, from compensation to workplace safety.

UPW believes all of these well-rounded experiences make Mr. Faria an ideal candidate to serve on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Faria's nomination.

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GM-575

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:10:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Char	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ken Faria has years offfront line experience as a paramedic with the city and county of Honolulu EMS and will be a terrific voice to represent Oahu from the paramedic prespective.

GM-575

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:45:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Paramedic Kenneth Faria to serve on the State of Hawaii Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Committee. As a dedicated and highly skilled paramedic with years of experience in the field, Kenneth Faria has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public health, emergency medical services, and the well-being of the people of Hawaii.

Throughout his career, Kenneth has exhibited a deep understanding of the intricacies and challenges of emergency medical care. His work has not only shown his clinical expertise, but also his leadership and ability to collaborate with diverse teams to deliver exceptional patient care in high-pressure situations. He possesses the knowledge and experience necessary to provide valuable insights into the development and improvement of EMS systems across the state.

Kenneth's dedication to improving the quality of emergency medical services is evident through his proactive involvement in local training programs, mentorship of new paramedics, unions, and his continuous pursuit of professional development. His contributions to EMS are a testament to his desire to improve service delivery, enhance patient outcomes, and ensure that Hawaii's EMS systems are responsive to the unique needs of our diverse communities.

The State of Hawaii would benefit greatly from his perspective on the EMS Advisory Committee, particularly in areas such as workforce development, training, and the integration of new technologies in emergency medical services. Kenneth's proven track record of service, leadership, and passion for public health makes him an ideal candidate for this important role.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Paramedic Kenneth Faria to the State of Hawaii EMS Advisory Committee, and I am confident that he will serve the people of Hawaii with integrity, dedication, and excellence.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kea Smith - Paramedic

GM-575

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:00:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support and highly recommend Kenny Faria for this position he's of great character and will be a good representative for his team.

GM-575

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:58:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support and recommend Kenneth Faria Jr for this!

GM-575

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:16:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Kenneth Faria Jr as the paramedic representative from Oahu on the Emergency Medical Advisory Committee. I am unable to attend the confirmation hearing in person, but I hope my written testimony will convey my full endorsement.

I have worked in this department for 16 years and I can attest to his exceptional dedication, leadership, and expertise in emergency medical services. Kenneth possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to represent the interests of paramedics and to contribute meaningfully to the development of policies or procedures that improve patient care and the overall effectiveness of our emergency medical system.

Kenneth's commitment to professional growth, the safety of our community, and the well-being of fellow EMS professionals makes him an ideal candidate for this position. I am confident that Kenneth will be an asset to the committee and will advocate effectively for the needs of paramedics on Oahu.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Kenneth. I respectfully urge you to confirm him as the paramedic representative on the Emergency Medical Advisory Committee.

Hearing Scheduled for
Friday, February 28, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Marilyn A. Matsunaga, Chair
Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: **GM 575 Kenneth Faria** to the
Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

It is an honor to offer this testimony in **STRONGEST SUPPORT** of the appointment of Kenneth Faria to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

Kenneth's journey from an entry-level Emergency Medical Technician to his current role as Field Operations Supervisor with Honolulu Emergency Medical Services is a testament to his dedication, skills, and steady leadership in emergency care.

Kenneth's career spans more than two decades of service in Honolulu, where he's gained experience in everything from providing frontline medical care to coordinating the logistics of EMS operations. His current role involves overseeing ambulance field units, managing training programs, and ensuring that emergency medical services run smoothly across a wide area. His talented approach has helped enhance operations and improve patient care.

What stands out most about Kenneth is his compassion and the genuine connection to the people he serves. One especially touching example is his reunion with a cardiac arrest survivor during 2023's National EMS Week. Just a month prior, Kenneth and his team had helped save this 95 year-old man's life and seeing him healthy and surrounded by family made a lasting impact. When interviewed by AFSCME about this experience, Kenneth said, "This job has lots of sad days, but to see him with his family today makes the job worth it."

In addition to his operational expertise, Kenneth is also an advocate for his fellow EMS professionals as a chief steward with the United Public Workers union. He approaches workforce issues with a thoughtful and constructive mindset, always aiming to make the system more effective for colleagues and patients.

Thank you in advance for your confirmation of Kenneth Faria to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.