

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB.905
RELATING TO AMBULANCES.**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 12, 2025

Room Number: 329

Fiscal Implications: The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

Department Position: The Department appreciates this measure and respectfully offers the following comments.

Department Testimony: The Emergency Medical Service & Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB) submits the following testimony on behalf of the Department of Health. We recognize the intent of the bill to improve patient access to primary healthcare for residents in central Maui. As emergency call volumes rise, expanding resources may be necessary to meet the growing demand for care. While increasing ambulance availability can address the immediate need for emergency services in central Maui, exploring cost-effective solutions that also address a broader range of healthcare needs could offer a more sustainable approach.

In certain regions, alternative solutions such as Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) or Community Paramedicine programs provide a more sustainable and less costly option. These programs focus on community-based care, addressing both emergency and non-emergency needs, and preventing unnecessary transports for non-urgent cases.

MIH programs allow for follow-up visits, preventative services, and chronic disease management, reducing reliance on emergency services while improving health outcomes. By

1 incorporating these programs, we can provide a more tailored and efficient response to the
2 unique needs of the community, ensuring that resources are used in the most effective way
3 possible.

4 In conclusion, while we fully support the goals of H.B. No. 905, we recommend further
5 consideration of alternative service models like MIH that could complement the bill's objectives.
6 These models can help ensure the long-term sustainability and efficiency of emergency medical
7 services while meeting the increasing demand for care in underserved areas.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO HOUSE BILL 905
RELATING TO AMBULANCES

House Committee on Health
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 12, 2025

11:30AM

Room 329

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Health:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) submits this testimony **SUPPORT** of HB 905 which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to purchase one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in central Maui, fund pay-related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel and increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in the State.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.¹ Among its statutory duties, OHA is required to (1) serve as principal public agency in the State of Hawai'i responsible for the performance, development and coordination of programs and activities relating to native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; (2) assess the policies and practices of other agencies impacting native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; and (3) conduct advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.²

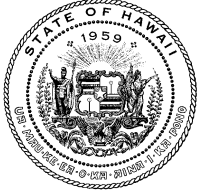
In fulfillment of its mandates, OHA seeks to advance policies, programs and practices that increase access to quality, culturally informed healthcare for Native Hawaiians. HB 905 will expand critical emergency medical services infrastructure and mitigate transportation barriers, which is crucial for Native Hawaiians who live on the island of Maui. Given Maui's significant growth and aging population³, an additional ambulance is necessary to help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors.

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5

² Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 10-3.

³ "Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2050," Research and Economic Analysis Division – Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism – State of Hawaii (April 2024) at p. 2; 6, https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/LRF/2050-long-range-projections.pdf

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HB 905**.
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

February 10, 2025

To: Senate Committee of Health and Human Services
Chair Joy San Buenaventura,
Vice Chair Henry JC Aquino, and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor
Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re. SB 905

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA is in strong support of this bill to add another advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to Central Maui. SHPDA appreciates the acute need for this through our Tri-Isle Subarea Council consumer feedback, from our participation on EMSAC (Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee).

Please make this request a high priority.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA

HB-905

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:59:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this proposal.

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

February 11, 2025

TO: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2025; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB905, RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

I **support** this measure to appropriate funds for the State Department of Health to purchase an advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in Central Maui, as well as fund pay-related costs for State-certified emergency medical services personnel.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, 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. Central Maui's population has significantly increased in the last decade, necessitating additional emergency services.
2. An additional ambulance would help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors by ensuring more timely response to 911 calls.
3. This measure is consistent with Maui Island Plan policy 4.6.1.f: "Encourage expansion and improved access to emergency care in all communities."

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-905

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:55:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate McLean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony HB 905

I am writing in support of HB 905. It is imperative Hawaii is able to ensure timely and effective emergency medical response. Not being able to do so is a public safety risk to residents in rural areas. Allocating funds to the Department of Health for an advanced life support ambulance in central Maui will enhance rapid response capabilities in an area that unfortunately lacks quick and efficient services. Strengthening air ambulance services across all islands further increases stable emergency transport, thus improving patient outcomes and reinforcing the state's commitment to public health and safety. Providing funding for personnel costs for emergency medical services staff ensures that qualified professionals are available to provide lifesaving care to the community. I support HB905 and hope others see the value that providing these services and equipment to Maui could bring to the whole state.