

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee?

As a Fire Fighter and Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Honolulu for 23 years, I have been a provider, trainer, and recently an administrator. Being a member of the 85th Fire Fighter Recruit Class of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD), the first class to be trained to the EMT level, I've seen firsthand the growth of our department's level of patient care. I see membership on the EMSAC as an opportunity to contribute to the evolution of the HFD's role in the EMS System.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee?

I view the EMSAC as a multidisciplinary team that provides perspective and insight to the State Department of Health in the administration and development of the EMS system. I believe a member's role is to be an advocate for our patient and our agency. As our backgrounds and experiences provide various recommendations, we have a responsibility to be open minded to whatever is brought to the table.

- (3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the board.

According to the Hawaii Revised Statutes 321-225 the committee shall monitor, review, and evaluate ongoing operations, administration and efficacy of the state system or any components thereof. They prepare and submit periodic reports, seek the input of the public, participate in planning or other policy making and perform other functions.

To contribute to this, I believe I must have an honest, objective view of not only my own actions and skills but that of the department that I represent. With a career of progressively increasing responsibility, I am able to approach each issue from multiple perspectives. As a recruit, learning what I didn't know was daunting. As a new fire fighter with a seasoned crew, showing them what I had learned was empowering. As a 10-year veteran fire fighter obtaining my state EMT license, it was both exciting and humbling to see how much further I still had to go. As a Fire Captain in the Medical Section and Acting Battalion Chief in charge of the HFD Medical Program, I have learned that I will never know it all.

With the experiences listed above and the administrative skills learned along the way, I'm confident I will fulfill the duties of the EMSAC with humility and an open mind.

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Ensuring that the programs and policies which effect the State EMS system take into account the participation and contributions of all the participating professions and agencies.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will (benefit) the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Empathy – our goal is to benefit both the EMS community and the public we serve. Trying to understand, and being sensitive to, the feelings and thoughts of others is key.

Integrity – I am guided by strong moral and ethical principles but also understand that I cannot force my beliefs unto others.

Professionalism – I can be counted on to take my appointment seriously but not to the level of being rigid and unfriendly.

- (6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a member.

I have been a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church all my life. From 2016 to 2022, I served on the Parish Pastoral Council whose members advised the pastor on items such as liturgy, service ministries, community outreach, public health concerns, etc. We were the eyes and ears of the pastor tasked with relaying the hopes and fears of our parishioners. We also coordinated some of the efforts of 50+ ministries within our church. Many members of these ministries were people that I had known all my life.

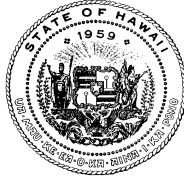
The qualities of empathy, integrity, and professionalism were key to my contributions to the Council. My training as a fire fighter and my knack for being brutally honest when walking the line between faith and reason encouraged others to look at the task at hand objectively with compassion.

This experience of working with those that I hold in high regard should easily translate to the committee.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest while serving on the committee. I am a public servant with no investments in any private industry interests which could benefit or suffer from my participation in the EMSAC. If a conflict of interest

arises, I will remove myself from any related discussion or vote. Should my opinion still be sought, I will make every effort to be honest and objective.



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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0526
Gubernatorial Nominee, Jacob A. Pekelo 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 strong support of the
5 confirmation of Jacob A. Pekelo as a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory
6 Committee (EMSAC).

7 Jacob A. Pekelo has over two decades of distinguished service in the Honolulu Fire Department,
8 where he currently serves as Acting Battalion Chief in the Training and Research Bureau.
9 Jacob's extensive experience spans several critical areas of emergency response, including
10 hazardous materials, medical services, career development, and fire ground survival. His service
11 as a Fire Fighter since 2001, and as a Fire Captain in the Training and Research Bureau, speaks
12 to his expertise in both fire and emergency medical operations.

13 Jacob's leadership and training contributions have had a significant impact on the Honolulu Fire
14 Department. In his current role as Acting Battalion Chief, he is responsible for the oversight and
15 management of various training programs, ensuring that his colleagues remain highly skilled and
16 prepared for any emergency scenario. His previous roles, including leading the Weapons of Mass
17 Destruction section and managing the Medical Section, underscore his versatility and
18 comprehensive understanding of fire, medical, and rescue operations.

1 Jacob holds numerous certifications that reflect his extensive training and commitment to
2 excellence. He is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), with certifications from both the
3 Hawaii Medical Board and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, and he has
4 taught emergency medical services training for over 15 years. Additionally, his certifications
5 include Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC), PreHospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS),
6 and Fire Service Instructor credentials. As a certified Hazardous Materials Technician and
7 Program Instructor, Jacob's expertise extends to some of the most complex and hazardous
8 environments.

9 We strongly urge your support for Jacob A. Pekelo as a member of the Emergency Medical
10 Services Advisory Committee, where his expertise will ensure continued progress and excellence
11 in emergency medical services across the state.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, and for your consideration of Jacob A.
13 Pekelo's nomination.

GM-526

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:09:20 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:

Jacob Pekelo will be a great addition as the allied health representative from Oahu. He has a vast array of experience serving with the Honolulu Fire department and this will provide a great perspective in discussions

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 526 Jacob Pekelo** to the
Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

It is an honor to offer this testimony in **STRONGEST SUPPORT** of the appointment of Acting Battalion Chief Jacob Pekelo to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

With over two decades of service in the Honolulu Fire Department, Jacob brings a wealth of experience, frontline grit, and leadership acumen to emergency services.

Jacob currently serves as Acting Battalion Chief in the Training and Research Bureau, a role that builds on his extensive background in leadership and training. Over the years, he's led initiatives in career development, hazardous materials response, and even specialized in weapons of mass destruction preparedness. His ability to pivot between these diverse responsibilities speaks to his adaptability and deep knowledge of emergency management.

His hands-on experience as a firefighter and his leadership roles are complemented by strong teaching credentials. Jacob has been an EMT First Responder Instructor for 15 years, as well as an American Heart Association Basic Life Support Instructor. His experience training first responders in areas like PreHospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) is a valuable asset to Hawaii's emergency services community.

Jacob clearly understands not only the tactical side of emergency response but also the human aspect, which is so important when dealing with the complete spectrum of emergency services responders, organizations, and the public during high-stress situations.

Jacob's blend of field experience, leadership, and a collaborative spirit make him a strong asset to the EMSAC board. Thank you for your confirmation of Jacob Pekelo to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.