



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO HOUSE BILL 784 HD 1
RELATING TO HEALTH

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 21, 2025

2:00PM

Room 308

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 784 HD 1 which makes an appropriation for the operation of an additional ambulance for the island of Hawai'i to be based in Makalei.

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 784 will expand critical emergency medical services infrastructure and mitigate transportation barriers, which is crucial for Native Hawaiians who live in rural areas on the island of Hawai'i. Given the island's significant growth and aging population, an additional ambulance is necessary to help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HB 784 HD 1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5

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



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 Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair

February 21, 2025
2:00 PM
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 308 & Via Videoconference

H.B. 784, H.D. 1
RELATING TO HEALTH

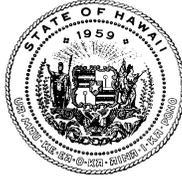
Makes an appropriation for the operation of an additional ambulance for the island of Hawai'i to be based in Makalei.

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 H.B. 784, HD1, Relating to Health.**

Ambulances play a crucial and time-sensitive role in transporting critically ill patients to area hospitals. For many emergency situations, such as if a patient is having a stroke, every second counts toward saving lives. Providing more resources for such services are something that our residents throughout Hawai'i Island deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



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 HB0784
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 21, 2025

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request. The appropriation of
4 \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and for fiscal year 2026-2027.

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

7 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch
8 (EMSIPSB) submits the following testimony on behalf of the Department of Health. We
9 appreciate the intent of this bill, particularly in addressing the challenges related to distance and
10 access to emergency services in underserved communities. Expanding access to emergency
11 medical services in these areas is an important step toward improving healthcare delivery and
12 ensuring timely care for individuals in remote regions.

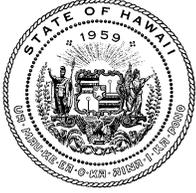
13 However, we would like to address the call volume in these communities and whether it justifies
14 the use of traditional 911 services. Given the potentially lower frequency of emergency calls,
15 traditional 911 responses may not always be the most efficient or cost-effective approach to
16 meeting the community's needs. Further evaluation of call volume and service efficiency is
17 necessary to determine the most suitable solution for these areas.

1 An alternative model worth considering is the use of Advanced Life Support (ALS) services
2 through programs like Community Paramedicine (CP) or Mobile Integrated Health (MIH). These
3 programs are designed to address both emergency and non-emergency medical needs, offering
4 care within the community at a potentially lower cost compared to traditional 911 services.
5 Community Paramedicine and MIH can provide targeted care, including follow-up visits,
6 preventative services, and chronic disease management, without the need for costly emergency
7 transports for non-urgent cases. Incorporating such services could significantly enhance the bill's
8 objectives by providing tailored, sustainable solutions that reduce the strain on traditional EMS
9 systems.

10 In conclusion, while we support the bill's intent, a thorough evaluation of community needs,
11 along with consideration of alternative service models like CP and MIH, will ensure a more
12 efficient and sustainable approach to healthcare delivery in underserved areas.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



**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'ŌKELE

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

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

February 19, 2025

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
And Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA;
and Senior Advisor to Governor Green On Healthcare Innovation

Re: **HB784, HD1 - Relating to Health**

Hearing: February 21, 2025 @ 2:00 pm

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA's Hawai'i Island Subarea Advisory Council, and EMSAC (SHPDA's Administrator is a member) strongly support this needed investment.

Please find resources to fund this additional ambulance to be based in Makalei.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



William V. Brillhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Merrick Nishimoto
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor

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TO: Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM: C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D., Mayor

DATE: February 19, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB784, HD1, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my **strong support** for House Bill 784 HD1, which proposes appropriations to fund the operation of the first advanced life support ambulance in the Makalei area of North Kona, on the island of Hawai'i.

The residents of North Kona face significant challenges accessing timely medical care, with primary care services often located as far as thirty miles away. Economic and transportation barriers further compound this issue, making emergency medical services a critical lifeline for the community. While the bill states additional, this advance life support unit would be the **only ambulance** in the area.

This will address the growing healthcare needs of this region by:

- **Improving Emergency Response Times:** Prompt responses to 911 calls are essential for saving lives and reducing long-term health complications.
- **Enhancing Access to Care:** For many residents, emergency services are their only means of receiving timely medical attention due to geographic and economic constraints.
- **Supporting a Growing and Aging Population:** North Kona has experienced significant population growth, including an increase in older residents who are at greater risk of health emergencies.
- **Reducing Strain on Existing Resources:** The current emergency medical services system is overstretched and unable to meet the demands of the community effectively.

This investment will undoubtedly save lives and improve health outcomes for residents and visitors to the island of Hawaii.

Mahalo, for your consideration of this critical issue.

HB-784-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:10:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Bailey	American Medical Response	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support.



February 19, 2025

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Legislature

Support for HB784 HD1

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for HB784 HD1.

We would appreciate your support for this valuable investment in emergency response, to serve the communities of North Kona at the Makalei Fire Station.

On behalf of our 5,500 employees and the 17,500 Hawaii Island residents they support, mahalo for the opportunity to provide our support on HB784 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director

Craig Anderson, VP Operations, Mauna Kea Resort –President
Pat Fitzgerald, CEO, Hualalai Investors – Vice President
Charlie Parker, General Manager, Four Seasons Hualalai – Secretary
Daniel Scott, Managing Director Rosewood Kona Village – Treasurer
Chris Sessions, DOSM, Fairmont Orchid – Board of Directors
Scott Head, VP Resort Operations, Waikoloa Land Company – Board of Directors
David Givens, General Manager, Hilton Waikoloa Village – Board of Directors
Rob Gunthner, Area VP Resort Operations, Hilton Grand Vacations – Board of Directors
Pete Alles, Regional VP and GM, Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection – Board of Directors
Mark Goldrup, General Manager, Waikoloa Beach Marriott – Board of Directors

HB-784-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:17:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.