



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1425
RELATING TO THE STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department SUPPORTS this measure and offers comments.

3 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. The

4 EMSIPSB Branch provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

5 Established through HRS §321-225, the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee
6 (EMSAC), within the Department of Health, provides advisory support on the state's emergency
7 medical services (EMS) system. EMSAC is comprised of twenty members designated by statute,
8 but meetings are attended by over fifty community members and healthcare professionals both in
9 person and virtually.

10 Currently, the committee faces challenges meeting the quorum requirement of 11 members, as
11 many members have demanding careers in emergency medicine, healthcare, and emergency
12 medical services. Their professional responsibilities often require their sudden absence, making
13 scheduling difficult. Additionally, vacancies on the advisory committee can hinder the ability to
14 meet quorum. Without a quorum, the committee cannot conduct its business, which can delay
15 essential decision-making and public discussions. Reducing the quorum requirement to seven
16 members ensures that the committee can continue its important work even when full attendance
17 is not possible. Seven members have proven to be a reasonable and feasible number to ensure

1 quorum, allowing critical discussions to occur without the need to cancel meetings at the last
2 minute.

3 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

SB-1425

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:35:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Ybanez	Testifying for Kalihi Palama NB # 15	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairwoman of Kalihi Palama NB # 15 in support.