

THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
TIME OF HEARING: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HB464 HD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include 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. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW recognizes that the population of Kakaako is growing rapidly. In order to support the increasing population, additional EMS services are required. This measure will provide for one more emergency services unit to serve the area.

We ask that your committee pass HB464 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB464 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 6:53:59 AM

HB464

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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March 16, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Committee on Health
The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

Re: HB 464, HD1, Relating to Health

Dear Chair Green, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Service Division, is in strong support of the HB 464, HD1.

The Emergency Medical Service Division responds to 911 calls for emergencies throughout the island of Oahu. We respond to calls and treat life-threatening conditions daily. Our paramedics and EMTs have to take care of people who are hurt and sick in the worst kinds of conditions. When responding to incidents and to the hospitals with lights and sirens, our personnel put themselves at risk every time. Yet everyday, every paramedic and EMTs go out there and make a difference.

As of today, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Service Division, has 240 uniformed personnel. There are 78 females (32.5%) and 162 males (67.5%) that make up the uniformed personnel.

We have 18 EMS units that are 24-hours, 2 EMS units that are 16-hour units, and 2 non-transport response vehicles that are 16 hours.

The Honolulu District consists of 5 EMS units covering the area from the ocean to the mountain, and west of 6th Avenue to east of Ala Lilikoi. The average response time is 8 minutes in urban Honolulu.

Over the last 4 years, our total call volume over all has increased 18%. Last year, we responded to 87,557 calls. We transported 52,977. The 5 metropolitan units

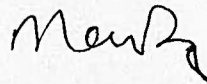
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alone responded to 34,798 calls. That is 40% of the call volume. If you include adjacent units Wailupe and Aiea into that figure, since they are constantly covering the town area, it increases to 52%. Over half of our total call volume is run by 7 units. There is a definite need for another ambulance in the Kakaako area to help out the town units.

The last time an EMS unit was added to the Metropolitan area was in 2005. The Kakaako/Ala Moana area responded to 7,463 calls in the past year. An additional ambulance would allow for more even distribution of the calls, and decrease overall response times.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, highly support the passage of HB 464, HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Rigg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark K. Rigg
Director