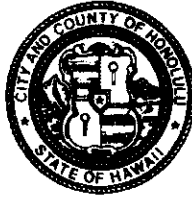


HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

MARK K. RIGG  
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015

Re: HB 464, Relating to Health

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Creagan and Members:

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

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, ever 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice-Chair  
February 9, 2015  
Page 2

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.

Sincerely,

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

Mark K. Rigg  
Director