

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 414
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Green:

Subject: H.B. 481, RELATING TO HEALTH
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Time/Place of Hearing: 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 414

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports H.B. 481 to make an appropriation for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to be based in Makalei on the Island of Hawai'i.

The Makalei Fire Station in North Kona was opened in 2013 and houses a Fire Engine and Hazardous Materials Response unit. The Makalei station fills a gap on Hwy 190 between the Kailua Fire Station and the Waikoloa Fire Station serving one of the fastest growing districts in the state of Hawaii with approximately 45,000 residents. Unfortunately this station was never equipped or staffed with an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance to serve the area residents emergency medical response (EMS) needs.

EMS response time significantly impacts the overall delivery time of the patient to definitive treatment at an emergency room. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) which creates standards for Fire Service has determined that an EMS ambulance crew must respond to a scene within eight minutes to ensure optimal delivery of emergency care. According to NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments "This requirement is based on experience, expert consensus and science. Many studies note the role of time and the delivery of early defibrillation in patient survival due to heart attacks and cardiac arrest, which are the most time-critical, resource-intensive medical emergency events to which fire departments respond." Trauma, stroke and other cardiac emergencies are also extremely time sensitive and rapid transport to definitive treatment often makes the difference between life and death.



The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
March 16, 2015
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The current EMS response within the Makalei district comes from Medic 7 (8 miles away) out of the Kailua Fire Station, Medic 12 (15 miles away) out of the Keauhou Fire Station and Medic 16 (27 miles away) out of the Waikoloa Fire Station. Medic 7 and 12 account for 17% of the EMS calls in the County of Hawai'i and in the best circumstances will manage a response time of 8-15 minutes to the district of North Kona; if neither of these units is available the response time from Medic 16 in Waikoloa Village is approximately 25-30 minutes. To compound this the approximate transport time from North Kona to Kona Community Hospital is 25-30 minutes. With that being said, patients treated and transported within the North Kona district are at a disadvantage due to response and transport times and based on this, overall patient outcomes suffer.

This request is presented to meet the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to North Kona so that we can maintain a high level of EMS delivery to the community as its needs change.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO

1018 PALM DRIVE | HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

TEL: (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003

www.hawaiifirefighters.org

SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

March 18, 2015

Committee on Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. 481 HD1 Relating to Health
H.B. 851 HD1 Relating to Health

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. HFFA represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State with more than 345 HFFA members serving the County of Hawaii Fire Department, the only fire-based EMS service among the four County fire departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters.

HFFA strongly supports H.B. 481 HD1 and H.B. 851 HD1 as Hawai'i Island has experienced a number of factors that justifiably warrants the need for additional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units, including a population growth; impending destruction of Highway 130 due to the still-active June 27th lava flow; and the sheer land mass of the island.

Access to primary and acute medical care within these areas has been chronically challenging as services are currently as much as 30 miles away for many residents. The volume of EMS calls have slowly increased each year without a correlated increase in EMS services to the areas, and with the projected population growth, this will no doubt continue to impact our ability to deliver high quality EMS services to residents. Given the current circumstances, the outcomes of patients who have an injury or illness in which their treatment is time sensitive, the odds are stacked against them.

The requests presented in both H.B. 481 HD1 and H.B. 851 HD1 are to aid in meeting the ever-increasing demands for Emergency Medical Services on Hawai'i Island specific to Makalei and Puna, respectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and HFFA respectfully requests favorable consideration of these measures.

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I



STATE OF HAWAI'I

RESOLUTION NO. 79 15

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR AN ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE IN MAKALEI, AS PROVIDED IN SENATE BILL NO. 298 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 481.

WHEREAS, the Makalei Fire Station in North Kona has been operating on Highway 190 since 2013 to serve a fast-growing district of about 45,000 people, but it is not equipped or staffed with an advanced life support ambulance; and

WHEREAS, without an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei Fire Station, depending on the availability of nearby ambulances, response times in the area range from 8 minutes in the best circumstances to 30 minutes; and

WHEREAS, an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei will reduce the time for emergency medical service personnel to respond to emergencies involving residents and visitors on Hawai'i Island; and

WHEREAS, the continued lack of an advanced life support ambulance at Makalei reduces the ability of emergency medical service personnel to respond to life-threatening incidents in a timely manner; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I that the Legislature is urged to support funding for an advanced life support ambulance in Makalei, as provided in Senate Bill No. 298 and House Bill No. 481.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports all efforts by the Legislature to improve access to emergency health care for residents and visitors on Hawai'i Island.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Senator Josh Green, the Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, the Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, the Honorable Representative Sylvia J. Luke, and the Director of the Department of Health.

Dated at Kona, Hawai'i, this 18th day of February, 2015.

INTRODUCED BY:


COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

COUNTY COUNCIL
County of Hawai'i
Hilo, Hawai'i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai'i on February 18, 2015.

ATTEST:



COUNTY CLERK



CHAIRPERSON & PRESIDING OFFICER

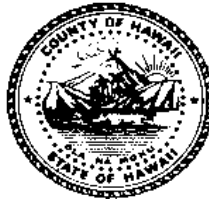
ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
CHUNG	X			
DAVID	X			
EOFF	X			
ILAGAN	X			
KANUHA	X			
ONISHI	X			
PALEKA	X			
POINDEXTER	X			
WILLE	X			
	9	0	0	0

Reference: C-119/Waived GREDC

RESOLUTION NO. 79 15

From the office of -
Council Member
District 4 – Puna Makai



Office: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 965-2707
Email: gilagan@hawaiiicounty.gov

GREGGOR ILAGAN

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Health

Dear Senator Green and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 481. As you are well aware, this is the companion to your Senate Bill 298, which this Committee has advanced earlier in the session. The Hawai'i County Council, of which I am a member, has registered its support of an ambulance for Makalei through the passage of Resolution No. 79-15, and I ask that you support access to emergency health care for Kona's residents and visitors by recommending approval of this bill.

Having an advanced life support ambulance based at Makalei will cut the response time and will provide support and relief to the emergency medical service personnel currently operating in West Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greggor Ilagan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB481 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:03:34 PM

HB481

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
Laura Mallery-Sayre	The Daniel Sayre Memorial Foundation	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation, I speak in support of HB481 HD1. The Makalei Fire Station is without the support of an ambulance and EMS personnel presently. Our Fire Department, according to nationally recognized standards, is supposed to respond to this area within 8 minutes for optimal survival rates in cardiac arrest. Our nearest station is 8 miles away and cannot meet this standard even under the best of circumstances. It is imperative that we provide the citizens of Hawaii County with this necessary life-saving equipment and staff.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB481 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:56:06 AM

HB481

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

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

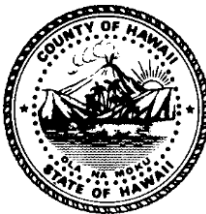
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Karen Eoff
Council Member, N. Kona
Chair, Finance Committee



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 16, 2015

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Email: HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: sengreen@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony Supporting HB481, HD1, Relating To Health
Hearing: March 18, 2015, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Room 414

Dear Senators:

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I would like to express support of above referenced bill, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

This bill will provide an appropriation for an advanced life support ambulance, a vehicle, equipment and personnel costs to be based at the Makalei Firestation, in North Kona. Residents of the entire area of North Kona, from Kailua-Kona to Pu'uanehulu, both mauka and makai, as well as visitors staying in our resort areas would benefit greatly as the population has increased significantly over the years, with an increase in calls for emergency medical services.

I strongly urge the enactment of HB481, HD1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Eoff".

KAREN EOFF, Council Member
District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB481 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 7:23:33 PM

HB481

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: fsayre@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB481 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:01:45 PM

HB481

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Sayre	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB481. North Kona is one of if not THE fastest growing districts in the state. Currently, even under ideal traffic conditions, it is almost impossible for the ambulance at station 7 in Kailua to respond to calls in the Kaloko or Kalaoa residential areas in the 8 minutes mandated by the National Fire Protection association. If it is out on another call and a back up ambulance from Keauhou or Waikoloa is called it could take up to a half hour or more. This is absolutely life threatening not to mention fraught with legal liability for the state and county. Please pass this bill.

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