



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 481 HD 1**  
**Relating to Health**

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: Wed., April 6, 2015 9:05 AM      Room Number: 211

1    **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in fiscal years 2015-  
2    2016 and 2016-2017. The measure requests an additional advanced life support ambulance unit  
3    including a vehicle, personnel, and equipment.

4    **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive  
5    Budget request for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

6            The Department recognizes the significant challenges to providing health care and  
7    emergency services to the Makalei Community. The Department is projecting a shortfall in  
8    general funds to fund the existing ambulance contracts across the state for FY16 and FY17.  
9    Funding an additional unit would have a negative impact on existing services.

10           This measure seeks to augment the Hawaii County emergency medical services system  
11    for the residents and visitors of the Makalei area. Hawaii County currently operates 15 ground  
12    ambulance units on the island of Hawaii. The last unit added was unit 3, Hawaii Ocean View  
13    Estates, in fiscal year 2005. Hawaii County has budgeted funds to secure and administer a  
14    backup 911 contract with American Medical Response to aid with increased 911 calls.

15           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB481**

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Mallery-Sayre	The Daniel Sayre Memorial Foundation	Support	No

Comments: 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 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 Hawaii 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. We urge the Ways and Means Committee to consider the impact of saving lives rather than having them lost and we urge you to fund this measure.

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**HB481**

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT the passage of HB481. Our North Kona district is one of the fastest growing in the state. Our emergency medical services for this area are already stretched thin with the ambulance at Station 7 in Kailua town having to cover the area from South Kohala to Keauhou. We need coverage with acceptable response time for the Kalaoa, Makalei and Koloko areas as well as backing up from Kailua-Kona. Thank you.

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