



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on HB 851 HD 1

Relating to Health

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: Wed., March 18, 2015 1:30 PM Room Number: 414

Fiscal Implications: Appropriates an unspecified amount of EMS Special Funds (ESF) in fiscal year 2015-2016. The measure requests an additional advanced life support ambulance unit including a vehicle, personnel, and equipment.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.