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**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 90**

REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATIONS, TO ALLEVIATE EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: Wed, March 16, 2016 8:30am Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Costs to support work group unknown.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports HCR90 and recognizes that
- 3 community paramedic services must be both geographically and culturally sensitive to Hawaii's
- 4 needs. The Department shall work collaboratively with the EMS community and stakeholders to
- 5 develop a Hawaii community paramedic program.
- 6 This model could improve access to care for persons in rural and metropolitan areas statewide
- 7 requesting non-emergent care through Hawaii's EMS system.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
March 16, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

**HCR 90 – REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM  
BRANCH TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP EMERGENCY  
SERVICES FROM RESPONDING TO NON-EMERGENCY CALLS.**

Chair Belatti, and Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports the intent of HCR 90. This measure would convene a working group to develop a community paramedic program, including educational standards for certifications, to alleviate emergency services from responding to non-emergency calls.

The introduction of a community paramedic program will allow paramedics to respond to those individuals who utilize the emergency medical services system (911) as primary access to healthcare. These highly trained paramedics will be able to respond to those individuals, perform initial assessments, physical examinations, obtain past medical histories, and diagnostic examinations within their current scope of practice to evaluate their conditions.

These patients can then be referred to supportive services, such as social services, mental health, or other while reducing the need to transport them to a crowded hospital emergency department. These community paramedics will be able to provide non-emergency care, patient education, and referral services. This will minimize the need for a 911 ambulance, which should only be reserved for true emergencies.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of HCR 90 and supports its passage. We look forward to continuing our active and committed engagement in these partnerships.

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**HCR90**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 16, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Support	Yes

**Comments:**

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**HCR90**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 16, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Ancheta, MPH	American Medical Response	Support	No

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR90 on Mar 16, 2016 08:30AM\*

**HCR90**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 16, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Lightfoot	American Medical Response	Support	No

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR90 on Mar 16, 2016 08:30AM\*

**HCR90**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 16, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

**Comments:**

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