

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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WRITTEN

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 600, GM 601, GM 602
NOMINEES TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: May 12, 2020, 9:30am Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Air travel and transportation costs to attend meetings.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the following appointments to the
3 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

4 Mr. Michael Jones (GM 600) is a fire captain with the Honolulu Fire Department. He is
5 a fire fighter with paramedic background and certification. His background and contributions are
6 an asset to EMSAC. He is an interim appointment by the 2019 Legislature and has attended
7 previous EMSAC meetings.

8 Ms. Dian Gruber (GM 601) is a currently retired registered nurse who worked for Maui
9 Memorial Medical Center. Her participation, contributions and input are beneficial to EMSAC.
10 She has been serving on this board for a few years .

11 Mr. Chris Honda (GM 602) is a battalion chief with the Hawaii Fire Department. He has
12 paramedic knowledge, skill, experience and certification. He is vital to the strong working
13 relationship with American Medical Response, the county of Hawaii's private ambulance
14 provider. His background, knowledge, expertise, and contributions are a valuable asset to
15 EMSAC. He attends EMSAC meetings and is an interim appointment by the 2019 Legislature.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAI'I POLICE DEPARTMENT

GM 602

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
AND HEALTH**

DATE : Tuesday, May 12, 2020

TIME : 9:30 A.M.

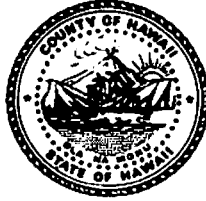
**PLACE : Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

PERSON TESTIFYING:

**Police Chief Paul K. Ferreira
Hawai'i Police Department
County of Hawai'i**

(Written Testimony Only)

Harry Kim
Mayor



Paul K. Ferreira
Police Chief

Kenneth Bugado Jr.
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998
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May 8, 2020

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee On Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Chair and Members
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: GM 602, Gubernatorial Nominee Chris Honda, Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Dear Senator Baker and Members:

The Hawai`i Police Department **strongly supports** the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Chris Honda, to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

We believe that he possesses the knowledge and skills that are necessary to be a very valuable asset to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee with the State of Hawai`i. On a personal note, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of professionally knowing Mr. Honda, while serving in my various capacities within the Hawai`i Police Department and have always known him to be of the highest moral character.

For the reasons above, we strongly urge this committee to approve the passage of GM 602, the confirmation of Mr. Chris Honda, to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

PAUL K. FERREIRA
POLICE CHIEF

GM 602

Chris Honda, State EMS advisory Committee (EMSAC)

3/19/2020 9:00 am CPH

In Strong SUPPORT

Dear Chair Baker and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of support for the nomination of Chris Honda to serve as the paramedic member from Hawaii County on the state of Hawaii EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

I can think of no better person to fill this role as Chris is THE go to person for EMS issues on Hawaii Island. He is one of the most knowledgeable and respected paramedics in our state, with years of both clinical and administrative experience. He now is in charge of all things EMS for the Hawaii Fire Dept as the EMS Battalion Chief. Chris was even recognized as the outstanding paramedic of the year *nationally* in 2009! He has received numerous accolades throughout his firefighting and EMS career because he continually demonstrates a tireless work ethic and a willingness to help others build a more robust and resilient system for the entire community.

Chief Honda's creativity and positivity lend themselves to continued successes through collaborative problem solving across the spectrum of stakeholders. I am excited to have him contributing in a more formal way on the EMS advisory committee and welcome his inclusive and thoughtful style and his boundless energy!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Char MD
Chair, Hawaii State EMS Advisory Committee

GM-602

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:58:47 AM

Testimony for CPH on 5/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	Testifying for American medical Response	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020
May 12, 2020

LATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

Governor's Message 602 Confirmation of Chris Honda to the
Emergency Services Advisory Committee

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, represents more than 1,900 professional active-duty fire fighters throughout the State. The HFFA, on behalf of all of our members, **supports Governor's Message 602** nominating Chris Honda to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Committee.

Mr. Honda currently serves as the Battalion Chief with the Hawaii Fire Department (HFD) overseeing the Emergency Medical Services Bureau. Prior to his promotion to his current rank, Chief Honda has served as a front-line fire fighter and paramedic with the HFD since 2000.

In 2009, Mr. Honda was recognized as the National Paramedic of the Year by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technician (NAEMT), a nationally recognized EMS professional organization. Deputy Fire Chief Lance Uchida, who at the time was Chief's Honda's company officer, commented that "Chris is always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty and takes great pride in his profession. He has an excellent work attitude which radiates to his fellow employees and colleagues" and his dedication and hard work continually demonstrates a genuine interest in his profession and is constantly improving his knowledge of medical advancements and advancing his skills by attending classes and cross training in other disciplines.

Mr. Honda is extremely qualified to serve on the EMS Advisory Committee and will be a tremendous asset in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the Committee. HFFA strongly supports Chief Honda's nomination to serve on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
 - a. I have been attending EMSAC meetings over the past 10 years. I would like to be more involved in some of the decision making that goes on to improve the care that our department provides to our community.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
 - a. As a member of the Board, I believe that my responsibilities would be to provide input on various issues pertaining to EMS. I would also be assisting with decision making as well as implementing of policies and procedures that the Board decides on.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
 - a. I have always had a great passion for EMS. I stay up to date with the latest issues and best practice for patient care. This background will enable me to provide valuable information as far as policies and procedures are concerned. Thus ensuring that our frontline personnel remain safe and are able to give the best care to the people of our community.

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.
 - a. During my 25 year career in EMS I have had the wonderful opportunity to work in all three EMS systems in Hawaii. I have worked in Maui County, Honolulu City and County and currently, Hawaii County for The Hawaii Fire Department. I was also a full time instructor for Kapiolani Community College in the EMS Division on Hawaii Island. At present, I hold an administrative role for the Hawaii Fire Department, serving as the EMS Battalion Chief. This position oversees all aspects of the 911 EMS operations here on Hawaii Island. I have also served on the Hawaii Medical Board's EMP advisory committee for over 5 years. With my background I feel confident that I will be able to bring valuable insight as to current trends within EMS.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
- I hope to assist with improving health care to the people of Hawaii.
 - I also hope to assist with problem solving and improve the challenges that we are currently facing within our medical system.
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.
- Commitment:
 - Commitment is very important to me and if selected I will give my 100% effort to this valuable committee.
 - Communication:
 - I feel that communication is one of my strong points. I enjoy working with others and I believe that communication is an important attribute to have when involved in group problem solving.
 - Passion for EMS:
 - I have a lot of pride and passion for EMS here in Hawaii. I feel that my interest in EMS pushes me to work hard; always striving to improve our services to the community.
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.
- I feel that my background in EMS makes me a strong candidate for this position:
 - Education and training
 - EMS practitioner in all three response system here in Hawaii
 - Licensure
 - Involved with alignment of:
 - National and state certification
 - Training and education
 - Scope of practice
 - Serving as an EMS administrator for the second largest EMS provider in Hawaii.
 - Involved with the development and implementation of the first community paramedicine program in the state
- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?
- No

