

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B.2236
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
REP. BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 11, 2020 Room Number: 329

Fiscal Implications: This bill appropriates funds for DOH to conduct comprehensive workforce and cost analysis reviews with federal partners to improve the efficiency, quality, and cost effectiveness. Appropriates funds for collective bargaining increases and other current expenses. The measure appropriates:

1. \$25,000 for the workforce study;
2. \$100,000 for comprehensive cost analysis to improve the efficiency, quality, and cost effectiveness of Hawaii's Statewide EMS program;
3. \$15,776,780 for collective bargaining; and
4. \$3,997,494 for other current expenses.

Department Testimony: The Department of Health supports H.B.2236. ACT 60 (2019) Legislature required a comprehensive review of the Hawaii EMS System. From October 14-18, 2019 the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducted a re-assessment of the State EMS System. The positive report made multiple recommendations to improve the system. This bill addresses three recommendations from the report: 1) Conduct a comprehensive Statewide workforce study reviewing the entire EMS System, the status of the

workforce and identify any gaps by county 2) Conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the entire EMS System. Based on this analysis revise the system to include looking at identification of centralized purchasing and other possible cost-saving measures, and 3) Establish a sustainable source of funding for the EMS and trauma system.

H.B.2236 allocates the sum of \$25,000 to fund the workforce study. The results will be used to describe Hawaii's pre-hospital workforce providing invaluable information for training priorities and to ensure an adequate supply of care providers.

Recommendations two (2) and three (3) fit together. A sustainable, funded EMS system is required for this essential service for residents and visitors. The comprehensive cost analysis study is necessary to understand funding requirements and realities and answer continuing questions about system cost. H.B.2236 allocates the sum of \$100,000 for the study.

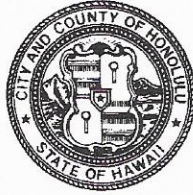
In 2019, the legislature appropriated funds for three new ambulance units for Kauai, Hawaii, and City and County of Honolulu. Funding was renewed for FY 2020. H.B.2236 continues funding for FY 2021 as part of other current expenses (OCE) in the sum of \$3,997,494. H.B.2236 also funds FY 2021 collective bargaining (CB) requirements at \$15,776,780.

Passage of H.B.2236 is critical for the continuation of life saving emergency medical services at the current level. If the funds are not provided to meet required collective bargaining increases and other current expenses, a reduction in personnel and services would be necessary to remain within funding limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 10, 2020

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
And Members
Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, #329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB2236 Relating to Emergency Medical Services
In Support

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department which manages both the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Ocean Safety Lifeguard Services Divisions (OSD) for the City and County of Honolulu is in support of this measure.

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department fully supports the provisions of HB2236. The Department participated in the National Review Process of the State of Hawaii EMS system and is actively engaged with the State of Hawaii Department of Health on implementing the recommendations of the system evaluation.

The Department will actively participate in the required workforce evaluation of the system to identify areas of system improvement that will ensure a robust pool of qualified personnel from our local workforce to ensure the personnel needs of the system are in place for our community needs.

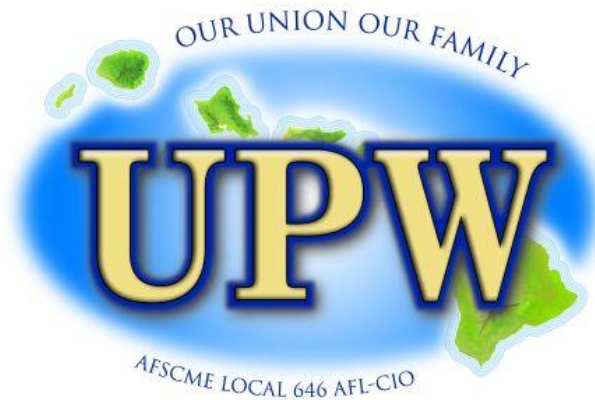
The Department will also fully participate in a thorough cost evaluation of the system to identify and enhance the strengths of the current system and identify cost efficiencies to ensure the financial sustainability of the EMS system at the provider level.

The Department has identified that the funding for the current level of services is critical to the continued medical well-being of the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the issue of major importance to our community.

Sincerely,

James D. Howe, Jr.
Director



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2020

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020
TIME OF HEARING: 9:30 AM
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2236
Relating to Medical Services

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 13,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB 2236 requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Health to conduct comprehensive workforce and cost analysis reviews with federal partners to improve efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness. Appropriates funds for collective bargaining increases and other current expenses.

The UPW supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.