

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO
CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN
AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF MAKALEI IN THE COUNTY OF
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the north Kona region on Hawaii island is one of
2 the fastest growing regions in the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, the steep increase in population in north Kona has
5 resulted in a corresponding steady increase in calls for
6 emergency medical services; and

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8 WHEREAS, for residents of Makalei in north Kona, the
9 closest primary care services and facilities are a thirty-mile
10 drive away; and

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12 WHEREAS, for residents in rural, isolated communities,
13 emergency medical services have become the main delivery method
14 and access to health care; and

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16 WHEREAS, due to the lack of available health care services,
17 it is a common practice for paramedics to respond to ten or more
18 calls for emergency medical transportation during a twenty-four-
19 hour shift in north Kona; and

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21 WHEREAS, a timely response to a 911 call is critical to
22 reduce death and disability among residents and visitors on
23 Hawaii island; and

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25 WHEREAS, in recent years, legislative efforts such as
26 Senate Bill No. 877 (2020) have requested funding to establish a
27 life support ambulance in Makalei; however, those efforts have
28 stalled due primarily to a lack of specific information
29 regarding costs of equipment and staffing; and

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31 WHEREAS, more information is necessary to determine the
32 need and approximate cost to purchase one advanced life support
33 ambulance to be based in Makalei, as well as related personnel



1 costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel;
2 now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
6 that the Department of Health and the County of Hawai'i are
7 requested to conduct a feasibility study for the implementation
8 of an ambulance service for the town of Makalei in the County of
9 Hawai'i; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study is
12 requested to include a recommendation to most efficiently
13 provide ambulance service for the town of Makalei; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study be
16 submitted to the Governor and Legislature no later than twenty
17 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Mayor of
21 the County of Hawai'i.

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OFFERED BY:

