

GM547 Michael Lam Questionnaire

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee?

I am honored to be nominated to be a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) and Mahalo to Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Chair Senator San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Senator Aquino, and Committee members Senators Keohokalole, Shimabukuro, and Awa.

My (almost) 21 years of experience in public service as a firefighter, paramedic, and EMS Captain on the Big Island has provided me a broad insight of EMS operations, ranging from patient care as a clinician to a management role evaluating & creating county wide policies and procedures. I attended my first Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee meeting with my supervisor, Hawai'i Fire Department EMS Chief Chris Honda, in 2019 and was enlightened by meeting emergency management agency managers who share the same passion as I do about EMS. I am confident that by interacting professionally with peers, colleagues, and mentors at EMSAC it will undoubtedly expand my clinical and managerial knowledge of an ever-evolving field in healthcare.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee?

I believe my role and responsibilities as an EMSAC member are to evaluate the State of Hawai'i EMS system and implement action plans which address the system's operational, managerial, and fiscal responsibilities. As I am nominated for the paramedic position representing Hawai'i County, my primary role would be to represent all EMS practitioners of the place I've called home of 30+ years. The Big Island has unique features and landscapes unlike any other county including, but not limited to, active volcanoes, a large land mass, and multiple climate conditions. My membership in the committee is to be a voice for all prehospital personnel to ensure the State of Hawai'i EMS system addresses our island community is safe from harm.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

My qualifications for the position of an EMSAC member date as far back as my childhood years, where my parents reminded me every day to treat all with respect. My immigrant parents owned a mom-and-pop Chinese restaurant in South Kona, and I was taught at a young age that our livelihood (the house I live in, the clothes on

my back, and the opportunity to attend college) is entirely through the generosity and the support of the community. I continue striving to meet my parents' expectations and uphold my mother's legacy.

My professional / and personal skills which qualifies me for this position includes:

- Hawai'i Fire Department employee since 2003
 - Firefighter: 2003 - present
 - Paramedic: 2006 - present
 - EMS Captain: 2018 - present
- American Heart Association CPR instructor
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) training officer
- Stop the Bleed instructor
- All hazards Incident Management Team (IMT) – Planning Section
- ALERRT Active Shooter Instructor
- Community Paramedicine provider
- Hawai'i Fire Department Critical Incident Stress Management Team / Peer Support
- Creates reports from prehospital charts for quality improvement purposes

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

My goal as EMSAC board member, via a successful nomination, is to represent all EMS practitioners for Hawai'i County by finding solutions to the Big Island's unique prehospital healthcare challenges. Through brainstorming will like minded solutions-oriented EMSAC board members, the State of Hawai'i's EMS system will find common ground and short & long term solutions to address barriers the prehospital healthcare system:

- Staffing
- Compensation / reimbursement
- Utilizing technology (ex: telehealth, alternate destination, etc.) to mitigate EMS's impact to the hospital's operational effectiveness
- Effective distribution of prehospital resources to benefit all counties

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee?

The three stand out qualities that would benefit my membership in the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee would be

- i. Effective listening before communicating and prioritizing action plans: I feel I can properly present, debate, and compromise on important issues when

evaluating the efficacy of the Hawai'i State EMS System **after** effective listening and processing all the information given. Priority of action plans are to be discussed / debated and implemented to the task that, if not addressed, will negatively impact the Hawai'i State EMS system the most.

- ii. “Respecting the Rank”: My 20-year career immersed in EMS and Fire services’ paramilitary system has taught me to speak out or follow orders when indicated. The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee has acquired a diverse membership level of medical and professional leadership. I feel every board member’s opinion shall be respected, and my experience balancing democratic and autocratic forms of leadership benefits the committee.
- iii. Sense of Empathy “Why we do what we do”: As a committee which monitors and evaluates the Hawai'i State EMS System, I understand the basis of why the system exists: *Respond to a perceived need for immediate medical care in order to prevent loss of life or aggravation of physiological or psychological sickness, injury, or incapacitating condition. (HRS §11-72-2)*. Every prehospital incident has an emotional effect. My contribution to this committee would be to humanize and show empathy to our role as EMSAC members.

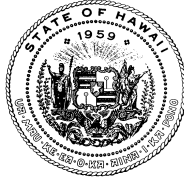
6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee?

My work experience in the Hawai'i Fire Department as a field paramedic on the ambulance to my current managerial position as an EMS Captain has shown me multiple facets of the EMS structure. My decision to enter the EMS profession many years ago is still as strong, if not stronger. I continue to dedicate my time to community engagement, education, and awareness. My ability to broadcast my beliefs to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee will hopefully steer the other members to make decisions for the benefit of our stakeholders, the general public.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any internal or external conflicts of interest during my service with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, as my role evaluating the Hawai'i State EMS system is to address its operational, managerial, and fiscal responsibilities to the public and to the Hawai'i County EMS practitioners. Solutions to overcome potential conflicts of interests would be (1) Any solicitation

to any EMSAC member shall be directed to contact the Chairperson, and/or (2)
Inform any person(s) wishing to discuss business pertaining to EMSAC business of
Chapter 92 of the Hawai'i State Sunshine Law



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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 547
Submitting for consideration and confirmation of the Emergency Medical
Services Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL LAM, for a term to
expire on 06-30-2027.**

SENATOR Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:00PM and Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal Implications. The Emergency Medical
- 2 Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) is legislatively mandated by §321-225 and
- 3 travel for this Big Island position is funded by the EMSIPSB budget.

- 4 **Department Position:** The Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System
- 5 Branch of the Department of Health supports the appointment of Michael Lam to the
- 6 EMSAC and offers comments.

- 7 **Department Testimony:** Captain Michael Lam has extensive experience in pre-
- 8 hospital care as a Mobile Intensive Care Technician (MICT) and EMS Captain with the
- 9 Hawai'i Fire Department. He was a practicing firefighter and paramedic for fifteen years
- 10 and promoted to EMS captain in 2018. Training prehospital personnel has been his
- 11 passion. He is a strong advocate for prehospital medical care. His expertise and years
- 12 of experience as a frontline paramedic will be invaluable to the EMSAC decision-making
- 13 process.

- 14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-547

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 2:37:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Char	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the willingness of Michael Lam to serve as a volunteer on the state EMS advisory committee (EMSAC) on behalf of the community! Mike has dedicated his career to EMS and will be a terrific representative for Hawai'i island on the EMSAC. He has all the requisite experience, knowledge, skills, thoughtfulness and fantastic interpersonal skills that will make him a valued member with a balanced perspective for the committee!