

SB-1640

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:10:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Johnasen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

LATE

SB-1640

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:50:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Stephenson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Rob Stephenson
Molokai Resident
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HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES OF
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

February 11, 2025, 3:01pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

LATE

SB1640 - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Respected Committee Members,

SB1640: Requires the Air Carrier Commission to enter into a contract with a qualified charter air service provider to secure emergency air transportation services in cases of emergency when no other air service is available. Appropriates funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some personal testimony.

I am part of a large ohana, with soon to be 6 generations born here. I say this not out of possessiveness, but to convey my sincere love for, and personal roots on Molokai. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my testimony and the reasons why I support this bill.

Bill SB1570's preamble is true, Molokai has "*resorted to unsafe, makeshift*" transportation. You've heard the many compelling personal stories, I have them too.

But I think the **most concerning problem comes down to one salient issue – Medical access** And the **impacts unreliable air service causes**, and **how** it's compounding medical and family issues each time a missed appointment occurs.

The costs to our residents – our health care, time away from work, the additional money it costs to pivot when you're stranded, and the stress it's caused – that is **incalculable**. **The residents of Molokai have shouldered all the costs**.

The reality is – so many of our residents are compromising and going without.

THEY ARE:

- **FOREGOING APPOINTMENTS,**
- **FOREGOING TREATMENTS, and**
- **FOREGOING DIAGNOSES**

It's reasonable to expect the **same basic level of access** available to all other islands – **should also be available to Molokai**.

Secured air service in cases of emergencies will provide us a temporary solution, but there is no doubt that **a LONG-TERM SOLUTION should also BE THE PRIORITY**.

We are extremely thankful to have Senator DeCoite, but Senator DeCoite can't do it alone. Both she, and we, need your support. **Molokai needs partners to face this crisis and resolve it**, or Molokai and the State will continue to face this situation again and again.

The farther we push out finding long-term solutions, the greater costs will be to human welfare and to the State.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my mana'o.

With Warmest Aloha,

Dawn Bicoy
Molokai Resident
Maunaloa, Hawaii