

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1577
RELATING TO 911 SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI , CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

January 30, 2026 11:00 AM

Room Number: 411

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health requests that this measure be considered as a
2 vehicle to provide the needed funding, provided it does not supplant the priorities and requests
3 outlined in the Governor's Executive Budget. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of
4 securing a funding source to support integration into the Emergency Medical Service (EMS)
5 Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and the EMS electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR)
6 system, with estimated costs of \$500,000 for implementation and \$200,000 annually for
7 subscriptions.

8 **Department Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure offering comments
9 and proposed amendments.

10 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch
11 (EMSIPSB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department of Health.

12 We support the intent of this measure to enhance emergency response capabilities and
13 improve public safety. However, we respectfully offer the following considerations to ensure
14 successful implementation and minimize potential risks.

15 The proposed statewide safety profile system must be fully integrated with the State of Hawaii,
16 Department of Health Emergency Medical Services dispatch system, Medical Communication

1 System (MEDICOM), and the EMS electronic ePCR systems currently in use. Without seamless
2 integration, critical patient information may not be readily available to EMS providers during
3 emergencies, creating liability concerns for the State and potentially compromising patient
4 care.

5 Integration should ensure real-time data availability for EMS Dispatch, Emergency Medical
6 Technicians (EMTs), Paramedics/Mobile Intensive Care Technicians (MICTs), and EMS medical
7 direction at the point of care. The system must comply with national public safety and
8 cybersecurity standards to protect sensitive health information. Additionally, there should be
9 end-to-end integration for EMS Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), including both primary
10 PSAP and secondary EMS PSAP, to CAD and ePCR systems, ensuring seamless information flow
11 across platforms.

12 The bill should also clarify responsibility for integration costs with existing Department of
13 Health EMS, CAD, MEDICOM, and ePCR systems. The Department of Health, in partnership with
14 the 911 Board, should lead project integration into the EMS CAD, MEDICOM, and ePCR system,
15 including vendor coordination, and ongoing maintenance. These details are critical to avoid
16 unfunded mandates and ensure accountability, while maintaining compliance with 911 patient
17 care and EMS regulatory data standards.

18 We strongly support the inclusion of public education and outreach, particularly for kūpuna and
19 individuals with disabilities or functional needs, to maximize participation and effectiveness.
20 The system should incorporate Advance Directives (including medical orders not to treat) into
21 the safety profile system to support patient autonomy and clinical decision-making during
22 emergencies.

23 Finally, we recommend that this measure be amended to include explicit indemnification and
24 liability protections for participating entities and emergency care providers

1 **Offered Amendments:**

2 138(a)

3 (1) Medical conditions and Advanced Directives;

4 (2) Disabilities, access needs, or other functional needs;

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAI'I
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Au Belatti and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 Relating to 911 Services

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1577**, which requires the 911 Board to establish, implement, and maintain a statewide emergency safety profile system that allows residents to voluntarily create and manage secure personal profiles containing information relevant to emergency responses.

HB1577 improves emergency response by enabling 911 dispatchers and first responders to access critical personal, medical, and accessibility information at the time of an emergency call. The measure is intended to ensure that responders are aware of an individual's mobility needs, communication methods, medical conditions, or support requirements before arriving on scene.

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and others with access and functional needs (AFN), emergency situations can present heightened risks. Miscommunication, unmet medical needs, or lack of awareness of disability-related supports can escalate emergencies unnecessarily, leading to avoidable harm, trauma, or involvement with law enforcement or emergency medical systems that are not equipped with appropriate information.

By making relevant, voluntarily provided information available to emergency dispatchers, HB1577 promotes safer, more effective, and more person-centered emergency responses. Advance knowledge allows first responders to tailor their approach, communicate more effectively, and respond in a way that respects the individual's needs, dignity, and autonomy.

Importantly, this measure supports disability inclusion by recognizing that effective emergency response is not one-size-fits-all. People with I/DD and other AFN populations are best served when systems are designed to anticipate and accommodate differences, rather than react after harm has occurred.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities urges your **strong support of HB1577**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daintry" being more prominent than the last name "Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator



**STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**

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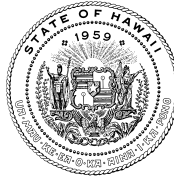
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Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELawe LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY HOUSE BILL NO. 1577

RELATING TO 911 SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

ROYCE M. MURAKAMI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STATE OF HAWAII 911 BOARD

JANUARY 30, 2026

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Royce Murakami, I am the Executive Director of the State of Hawaii 911 Board (the Board). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1577, a bill that requires the 911 Board to establish, implement, and maintain a statewide emergency safety profile system. This system would allow residents to voluntarily create and manage secure personal profiles containing information relevant to emergency responses.

Due to Sunshine Law requirements, the Board has not yet had the opportunity to convene to discuss and adopt a formal position on H.B. 1577. Please be aware that the Board is scheduled to meet on February 4, 2026, to review the bill and determine a unified position. We respectfully request that the Committee defer decision making on H.B. 1577 until after our meeting so that we can provide additional feedback and clarity on the measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1577.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

January 30, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

House Bill 1577 – Relating to 911 Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 1577 – Relating to 911 Services. This bill requires the 911 Board to establish, implement, and maintain a statewide emergency safety profile system that allows residents to voluntarily create and manage secure personal profiles containing information relevant to emergency responses.

DCAB values the privacy of sensitive information especially disclosure of a disability, medical or health conditions. There is concern regarding how long the information stays stored in the application, who has access to the information, and what preventive measures are taken to secure the information. Should the 911 Board contract with a vendor, we request the vendor ensures their application meets the accessibility requirements for people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
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CAROLINE CADIRAO
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Executive Office on Aging

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1577
RELATING TO 911 SERVICES**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
REP. DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
REP. KIM COCO IWAMOTO, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Friday, January 30, 2026, 11:00 A.M.

Conference Room: 411

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports HB1577.
- 3 **Purpose:** The purpose of this bill is to require a statewide, voluntary safety profile system like
- 4 Smart911 to be integrated into Hawaii's 911 services. SMART911 is a free, voluntary based,
- 5 secure service that allows users to create a personal profile to significantly improve emergency
- 6 response. This person-centered system is particularly valuable for people with disabilities or
- 7 dementia. Smart911 profiles can highlight health conditions, communication preferences,
- 8 mobility constraints, cognitive impairment, medications, behavioral triggers, sensory sensitivities
- 9 and more. Providing this critical information in advance gives first responders the context
- 10 needed to respond quickly, safely, and compassionately.

1 During disasters, SMART911 can save lives and help emergency managers identify
2 vulnerable individuals who may need extra assistance. Smart911 strengthens public safety by
3 enabling faster, more informed, and more person-centered emergency response across the state.

4 **Recommendations:** EOA supports this measure and defers to the Department of Accounting
5 and General Services' 911 Board on its implementation.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:23:15 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an excellent idea. It allows for the ability of a person with a disability to create a profile so that in the event of an emergency the first responder can already be attuned to any specialized needs they have. That can save both time and lives.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 1:04:37 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elma Pacleb	Pilina Health Resources Inc	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha and Mabubay!

I am in support of this bill to provide voluntary access to personal files especially medical needs of individuals with special needs including the need for interpreter. In addition to health directives, information available during emergency is critical for the safety of each individuals.



The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Au Belatti, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 Relating to 911 Services

The Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council strongly supports HB1577.

This bill would require the 911 Board to create and maintain a statewide system where people can voluntarily set up a secure emergency safety profile. These profiles would let residents share important personal, medical, or accessibility information that could help during an emergency.

HB1577 would help 911 dispatchers and first responders get the information they need right when someone calls for help. This could include details about a person's mobility, how they communicate, medical conditions, or any support they rely on. Having this information ahead of time helps responders prepare before they arrive.

Emergency situations can be especially risky for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and others with access or functional needs. Without the right information, misunderstandings or unmet medical needs can make emergencies worse and may even lead to unnecessary harm or trauma.

By giving dispatchers access to information that people choose to share, HB1577 supports safer, more effective, and more respectful emergency responses. Responders can communicate better, adjust their approach, and support people in a way that honors their needs and dignity.

This bill also promotes disability inclusion. It recognizes that emergency response should not be one-size-fits-all. People with disabilities are better served when systems are designed to understand and accommodate their needs from the start.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Self Advocacy Advisory Council urges strong support for HB1577.

Thank you for the chance to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Renken". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke.

Timothy Renken,

President, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 8:48:10 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong support if this bill because smart 911 is more esy to use for 1st reponders to know your personal info before they come to individual that who called 911 please this bill thank you.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 2:10:00 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kilgore	Full Life	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full Life strongly supports this bill that requires the implementation of "smart911" statewide. This will improve safety and emergency response for people with developmental disabilities who voluntarily create and update profiles relevant to emergency responses.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 5:08:04 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Representative Au Belatti and Committee Members,

I am a mother of a child with special health needs. As a young infant while hospitalized at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, he underwent surgery on his intestines. Til this day, he is G-tube dependent for his main nutrition. As he progresses, he learns to eat orally by mouth. His choice of foods may vary. There is a chance of his intestines rupturing. As a mother, this worries me. If ever something happens to him at home, school or in the community, I would not want to explain his past medical history. I want to ensure emergency providers know of his condition before arriving at the location.

I am in very strong support of Bill HB1577

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to share my testimony

Leilani Kailiawa

parent on Hawaii Island.

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

The Honorable Belatti, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members.
HB1577 Testimony in support.

I am in strong support of HB1577, that would require the state to have a system in place that would help coordinate emergency response systems.

My name is Deziree Tacub. I am from Kauai and I am a self-advocate. HB1577 is important because it will help E.M.S know more about my disability and how they can communicate with me and my friends in an emergency. It will also help locate my friends if they walk away from home. Also, I like to travel, SMART911 will work in the other states that offer it. That will help EMS know how to help me when I'm traveling if something happens.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1577.

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

The Honorable Belatti, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members.
HB1577 Testimony in support

I am in strong support of HB1577, my name is Kylie Moniz, I am a self-advocate from Kauai. HB 1577 is important to me, because it will help first responders know more about me. It helps my friends who do not speak and use a communication device. The first responders would know this ahead of time, and it would change how they talk and care for them.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1577.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 10:34:32 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Poole-Street	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother, a Special Olympics team leader, and the manager of a home for young adults with Intellectual disabilities, I strongly support the passage of HB1577. It will save lives.

People with Intellectual Disabilities are more likely to have significant medical, mental or physical concerns that set them apart from the general population in the care they require. Certainly in an emergency they would not be able to convey these to responders. Even the caretakers present might not be able to report the full scope of issues the person in need faces.

Sometimes the caregiver will have on hand a written report of the needs of the person in their charge. But I have witnessed an incident in which it took several precious minutes, in a life or death emergency, for the paper to be located. It took additional time for the responders to search the paper for the specific information they needed. HB1577 would eliminate this wasted time by making information instantly available to responders in a uniform fashion, so they would be able to access needed information and start treatment immediately. In cases where time is of the essence, this efficiency would save lives.

Please pass HB 1577.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 11:48:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNETTE TASHIRO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Smart 911 will improve emergency response by giving 911 dispatchers instant access to critical personal, medical, and accessibility information. It will also protect people with disabilities and populations with access and functional needs by ensuring responders know mobility, communication, medical, and or support needs before arriving on the scene.

HB-1577

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 7:28:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/30/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tani Salazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tani Salazar, and I am a social worker born and raised in Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of HB1577, which would expand an emergency safety profile system statewide.

Smart 911 is a critical tool for individuals living with disabilities, dementia, and older adults. In an emergency, having access to voluntary, secure personal information—such as medical needs, communication challenges, or behavioral considerations—empowers first responders to provide appropriate, timely, and compassionate care. This can mean the difference between confusion and clarity, or even life and death.

Currently, access to Smart 911 is limited, with availability primarily on O‘ahu and Maui. Residents on the neighbor islands deserve the same level of safety and support. Emergencies do not stop at county lines, and our emergency response systems should not either. A statewide system ensures equity, consistency, and better outcomes for all Hawai‘i residents.

Thank you for your commitment to improving public safety across our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!