

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWĒ LAULĀ

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY HOUSE BILL NO. 1577 H.D. 1

RELATING TO 911 SERVICES

**PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & PUBLIC SAFETY &
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

BY

ROYCE M. MURAKAMI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STATE OF HAWAII 911 BOARD

MARCH 19, 2026

Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Government Operations and Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 1577 H.D. 1, a bill that would require the 911 Board to establish a Statewide Emergency Safety Profile System Pilot Program and convene a working group. The 911 Board (the Board) appreciates the intent of this measure and respectfully opposes this bill for the following reasons.

The Board understands the importance of enhanced emergency response systems statewide. However, we believe the outcomes envisioned by the bill are already being achieved through existing systems currently in use across the State and therefore may not require additional statutory direction.

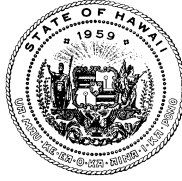
Currently, all four counties use RapidSOS to support emergency communications and response. RapidSOS is a public safety platform that delivers data directly to first responders. A key feature of this platform is RapidSOS Medical ID, which securely transmits an individual's critical health data by integrating with Apple Health and Android Personal Safety software when a 911 call is initiated. These existing capabilities closely align with the objectives of H.B. 1577 H.D. 1, including the secure handling of sensitive personal information. RapidSOS employs end-to-end encryption and ensures that user-provided medical data is only shared with authorized first responders during an active emergency, and only for the duration necessary to support response efforts. To provide access to an emergency profile safety system for users of traditional landline and VoIP services, the Board is in the process of conducting comprehensive research and is actively seeking a viable solution to resolve privacy concerns and technical issues. The Board is committed to ensuring that all sensitive personal information remains secure for both traditional landline and VoIP users.

The Board recognizes that increased public awareness is essential to maximizing the benefits of these existing tools. Therefore, the Board will coordinate with partner agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Health, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Disability and Communication Access Board, to expand public education and outreach efforts and ensure that residents are informed about available emergency profile options.

The Board believes that establishing a working group is unnecessary to accomplish the goals outlined in the bill. Establishing a duplicative working group and pilot program would divert limited Board resources from existing statewide 911 operations without producing additional public safety advantages. However, if the Committee determines that forming a working group is necessary, we propose the following amendments to H.B. 1577 H.D. 1. First, remove the term “Smart911” on Page 3 Line 8 to avoid vendor constraint concerns and potential reliance on equipment or services that may become outdated. Additionally, change the effective date to at least one year after enactment to allow sufficient time for proper implementation. Finally, include language stating, “the working group established under this section shall submit its report no later than [Date] and shall cease to exist upon submission of its report or on [Date], whichever is earlier”. The Board believes that the goal of the working group can be achieved in a shorter time frame due to the existence of a partial solution.

In summary, the Board supports the intent of H.B. 1577 H.D. 1 and the goal of improving emergency response through enhanced information sharing. However, we believe that forming a working group and creating a pilot program is unnecessary because the functionality contemplated by the bill is already in place and operational statewide. Instead, the bill’s objectives can be advanced more effectively through community outreach, education, and interagency coordination, rather than by implementing additional statutory requirements.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1577 H.D. 1.



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-HD1)
RELATING TO 911 SERVICES

SENATOR ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SENATOR CAROL FUKUNAGA, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 3:05 PM | Room Number: 225

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

9 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and respectfully offers the
10 following testimony.

11 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch
12 (EMSIPSB) provides this testimony on behalf of the Department.

13 The Department supports the intent of this pilot program and working group to evaluate
14 needed enhance emergency response capabilities and improve public safety by establishing a
15 statewide emergency safety profile system pilot program that allows residents to voluntarily

1 provide critical medical, mobility, communication, and access and functional needs information
2 for use during a 911-related call.

3 A pilot program is an appropriate and measured approach to evaluate operational feasibility,
4 public adoption, equity impacts, and system performance before long-term statewide
5 implementation. The Department also supports convening the proposed working group.
6 Inclusion of county representatives, the Department of Health, aging and disability partners,
7 and other stakeholders will help ensure the pilot is implemented thoughtfully, equitably, and in
8 alignment with public safety and health system standards.

9 It is also critical for the working group to identify if such applications are working as intended
10 and that the public is educated if such current programs are not fully integrated into the EMS
11 system as this time.

12 The Department believes the working groups should include evaluating recommends system
13 integration, vendor coordination, and ongoing maintenance costs to avoid unfunded mandates
14 and ensure compliance with EMS regulatory, documentation, and cybersecurity standards.

15 **Offered Amendments:**

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE
CHAIRPERSON

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

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs McKelvey, Fukunaga, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 Services

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers **SUPPORT** for HB1577 HD1, which requires the 911 Board to establish a Statewide Emergency Safety Profile System Pilot Program, convene a working group, and submit a report to the Legislature.

The Council supports the shift to a pilot program and formal working group structure. A statewide, voluntary emergency safety profile system offers a practical and privacy-respecting way for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs to share critical information directly with dispatchers at the time of an emergency.

We also strongly support the inclusion of a multi-agency working group with representation from the counties, the Department of Health, the Executive Office on Aging, the Disability and Communication Access Board, and the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Ongoing collaboration will help ensure the pilot is implemented consistently statewide, integrates with next-generation 911 systems, and meaningfully reaches kupuna and people with disabilities. The system would allow individuals statewide to voluntarily enter information about their access and functional needs online so that dispatchers have important information available during an emergency when a call is made from a landline or cellular phone. **Smart911 provides a strong example of an access and functional needs–friendly system; if another system is selected, it is important that these same accessible and person-centered features are included.**

This pilot structure allows the State to evaluate effectiveness, identify implementation challenges, and refine the model before long-term adoption. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1577 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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)

March 19, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

House Bill 1577 House Draft 1 – Relating to 911 Services

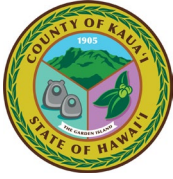
The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 1577 House Draft 1 – Relating to 911 Services. This bill requires the 911 Board to establish a Statewide Emergency Safety Profile System Pilot Program and convene a working group. It requires report to the Legislature and repeals on 6/30/2031. It is effective 7/1/3000.

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



POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

RUDY TAI, CHIEF OF POLICE
MARK T. OZAKI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony with Comments on House Bill 1577 HD1 Relating to 911 Services

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1577 HD1, which would require the Hawai'i 911 Board to establish a statewide Emergency Safety Profile System pilot program and convene a working group to evaluate the system and report to the Legislature.

On behalf of the Kaua'i Police Department (KPD), we appreciate and understand the intent of this measure, recognizing the benefits of a system that allows residents to voluntarily create and manage secure personal profiles with information relevant to emergency responses. However, consistent with the testimony submitted by the State of Hawai'i 911 Board, we respectfully note that many of the objectives contemplated by this bill are already being achieved through systems currently in place statewide.

All four counties, including Kaua'i, currently utilize the RapidSOS platform which delivers data directly to emergency communications centers and first responders during 911 calls. RapidSOS integrates device-based data and supports the secure transmission of critical information relevant to emergency response.

Through RapidSOS Medical ID, critical health data from Apple Health and Android Personal Safety software can be securely transmitted when a 911 call is initiated. The platform employs end-to-end encryption and ensures that user-provided medical information is shared only with authorized first responders during an active emergency and only for the duration necessary to support response efforts.

Additionally, RapidSOS uses device-based hybrid location technology to provide more accurate and reliable caller location information, significantly enhancing situational awareness for dispatchers and first responders.

Because this functionality is already operational statewide, the goals of HB 1577 HD 1 may be more effectively advanced through continued statewide coordination rather than through the creation of a duplicative statutory pilot program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

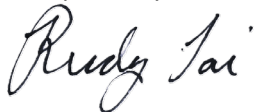
Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga

March 17, 2026

Re: Testimony with Comments on House Bill 1577 HD1 Relating to 911 Services

Page 2 of 2

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudy Tai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

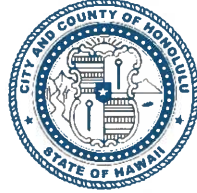
Rudy Tai

Chief of Police

Kaua'i Police Department

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

RADE K. VANIC
INTERIM CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
BRANDON NAKASATO
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE **BO-GK**

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members
Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1577, H.D. 1, Relating to 911 Services

I am Bradon Ogata, Major of the Communications Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD has concerns with House Bill No. 1577, H.D. 1, Relating to 911 Services, and offers these comments.

The HPD appreciates the intent of this bill and the importance of gathering information when responding to 911 emergency calls. However, requiring the State of Hawai'i 911 Board to implement a singular vendor's system, such as Smart911, across all state public safety answering points (PSAPs) could be problematic from the perspective of system integration in each county. With varying call volumes and different configurations of integral software components in each PSAP, some degree of independence in software selection for this purpose must be maintained so the PSAPs can ensure cohesive operation.

In addition, acquisition of software is also handled independently by each PSAP due to differing contract time frames and procurement requirements. While the State of Hawai'i 911 Board has been integral in supporting 911 systems through vetting improvement proposals and assisting with funding reimbursement, each PSAP should maintain independence in its ability to procure the proper system for this purpose.

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
and Members

Page 2

March 19, 2026

The HPD appreciates the committee's consideration of our comments regarding
House Bill No. 1577, H.D. 1, Relating to 911 Services.

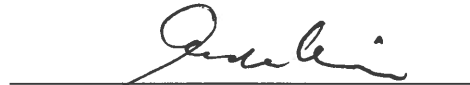
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Bradon Ogata, Major
Communications Division

APPROVED:



Rade K. Vanic
Interim Chief of Police

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2026 COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Senator Mike Gabbard,
Vice Chair COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS Senator Carol
Fukunaga, Chair Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair



The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai‘i
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 services

The Hawai‘i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council supports HB1577 HD1.

This bill would let people create a **safe, private emergency profile** that 911 can see when someone calls for help. People can choose to share important information, like medical needs, communication needs, mobility issues, or other supports they use.

Having this information ahead of time helps 911 dispatchers and first responders know what a person needs **before** they arrive. This can prevent confusion, reduce stress, and help keep people safe — especially people with disabilities or others who may need extra support.

The bill promotes **safety, respect, and inclusion**. It recognizes that emergency response should meet the needs of each person, not use a one-size-fits-all approach.

For these reasons, the Council strongly supports HB1577 HD1.

Thank you for the chance to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Renken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the first part of the name.

Timothy Renken,

President, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Mar 19, 2026

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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Zora Shove

Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

Member

Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1 – Relating to 911 Services

Chairs and Members of the Committees:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **supports HB1577 HD1**, which requires the 911 Board to establish a statewide Emergency Safety Profile System Pilot Program and convene a working group. We appreciate the House Committee on Finance's decision to advance this measure and the opportunity to provide comment as it moves forward in the Senate.

AILH is a cross-disability Center for Independent Living (CIL) serving all islands. We support people with a wide range of disabilities in meeting their goals for community living, employment, education, and self-direction. From an Independent Living perspective, HB1577 HD1 appropriately centers voluntary, emergency-limited disclosure and system preparedness, rather than placing the burden on individuals to permanently mark identification documents.

During the Maui Wildfire response and recovery, AILH staff helped convene and facilitate the Maui Disability Task Force, working alongside FEMA Disability Integration, the American Red Cross, state agencies, and community partners. That experience underscored how quickly access and functional needs can be missed when systems lack timely, accurate information about disability-related supports, communication needs, durable medical equipment, and housing needs. A secure, voluntary



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emergency safety profile system is a practical way to improve that information flow for future emergencies statewide.

HB1577 HD1 advances three key goals that are directly relevant to government operations, public safety, and emergency management:

1. Strengthening statewide coordination and consistency

A pilot administered through the 911 Board creates a single framework for implementation across counties and systems. Even where platforms like RapidSOS are already in use, a coordinated, statewide pilot focused on disability and access and functional needs can help ensure rural areas, neighbor islands, and smaller communities receive the same level of planning and outreach as urban centers. This is especially important for kupuna, people with disabilities, and residents who rely on limited transportation or in-home supports.

2. Centering voluntary, secure, time-limited disclosure

HB1577 HD1 limits access to safety profile information to the moment a 911-related call is initiated, which aligns with community expectations for privacy and data minimization. Many of our consumers are willing to share disability-related information in an emergency context but are understandably cautious about permanent flags on IDs or broad data sharing across agencies. A voluntary, emergency-specific system better balances safety, autonomy, and privacy.

3. Supporting disability-informed system design and outreach

The measure's working group structure provides an opportunity to formalize the involvement of disability-led organizations and cross-disability self-advocates in planning and evaluation. For this pilot to succeed, the platform must be fully accessible (including screen-reader compatibility, plain language, and multilingual options) and outreach must intentionally include individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, sensory disabilities, physical disabilities, and brain injuries. Centers for Independent Living and other disability



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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organizations can help bridge that gap, but they need to be included in the working group and outreach planning from the outset.

From a fiscal and systems-operations standpoint, proactive preparedness can reduce downstream costs associated with delayed or mismatched responses, preventable injuries, unnecessary institutional placements, or repeated emergency deployments. Investing in better information at the first point of contact is consistent with sound public safety practice and supports more efficient use of limited emergency resources.

Recommendations

As the Senate considers HB1577 HD1, we respectfully offer these recommendations for your deliberation:

- Ensure the working group explicitly includes cross-disability representation, including individuals with lived experience and organizations led by people with disabilities, as well as rural and neighbor-island perspectives.
- Maintain strong standards for cybersecurity, data retention, and deletion to protect resident information and maintain public trust in the pilot.
- Require that the pilot's outreach and enrollment strategy be accessible, culturally responsive, and multilingual, including coordination with Centers for Independent Living and community-based disability organizations.

AILH appreciates the Committees' attention to this measure and your continued work to improve Hawaii's emergency response systems in a way that reflects the needs and rights of people with disabilities across all counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1577 HD1.

Aloha,



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Roxanne U. Bolden

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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Jennifer Hartssock

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:29:17 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

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.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

1010 Richards Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

March 19, 2026

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*
Ms. Susan Wood, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Dominique Anders
Ms. Kathie Awaya
Ms. Virginia Beringer
Mr. Will Carlson
Ms. Annette Cooper
Mr. Mark Disher
Ms. Nancy Gorman
Dr. Natalie Haggerty
Ms. Stacy Haitzuka
Ms. Mai Hall
Ms. Melissa Johnson
Ms. Tina King
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Cheryl Matthews
Ms. Jessica McCullum
Ms. Siena Molina
Ms. Trish Moniz
Ms. Cherine Pai
Mr. Chris Pelayo
Ms. Kiele Pennington
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Dr. Scott Shimabukuro
Mr. Herbert Taitingfong
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Ms. Lisa Vegas
Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Helen Kaniho, *liaison to
the Superintendent*
Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani,
*liaison to the military
community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair
Committee on Government Operations
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1577 HD 1 - RELATING 911 SERVICES

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga and members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, is in **strong support** of HB 1577, HD 1 which requires the 911 Board to establish a Statewide Emergency Safety Profile System Pilot Program and convene a working group.

Children and youth with disabilities are more likely than their peers to have an underlying health condition. 17% of Hawaii's special education students are found eligible under the Other Health Disability category which covers chronic or acute health issues like epilepsy and diabetes, 13% of students fall under the Autism category, and many more eligible children have co-morbid health or psychological issues.

A Statewide Emergency Profile System will facilitate detailed and individualized information about a child's health-related conditions allowing first responders to better understand how to communicate with and treat the child, minimizing fear and potential misunderstandings in a high-stress moment. The profile system will also provide peace of mind for parents, knowing responders have critical context, which helps ensure the child's safety in emergencies.

The Council urges your committees to support the creation of a pilot program that will lead to a better safety net for all, including students with disabilities.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:10:29 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kilgore	Testifying for 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 for people with developmental disabilities on Hawai'i Island.

During the Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capital at least 15 self-advocates with developmental disabilities from Hawai'i Island advocated for this bill with their representatives and senators.

Mahalo,

Jim Kilgore

The testimony below includes 5 individuals submitting testimony

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 services

My name is James Labrie and I support HB1577 HD1. The reason why I think that hb1577 hd1 is important is because it would make it easier for first responders to have critical information when they respond to a call. If people with a disability cannot speak during an emergency, how will they get help from 1st responders? Having diabetes protocols, seizure protocols, medication allergies and other medical issues can be placed on the smart 911 application ahead of an emergency. I am a person with a disability who uses an electric wheelchair and if I become unconscious, first responders will have important information about me to help me.

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 services

My name is Raymond Mamea, and I am in support of HB1577 HD1. As a person with a disability and who uses an electric wheelchair, I believe it is important for me to have information available for emergency responders. When responders get to their location they will have the important information for the person. Responders will have my medical history, medicines, and how many times I take my medicines. When I fall down off of my bed, I need help and can let them know what part of my body is injured or in pain.

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 services

My name is Michelle Muralt and I am in support of HB1577 HD1. I am a person with a disability and have specific medical needs that are important to me when I need help from emergency services. Smart 911 will help first responders have the information about me before they arrive at my house instead of asking me more information about my personal profile, which can be difficult for me to explain and they will know how to help me and what hospital to take me to. Thank you for letting me testify.

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 services

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I support HB1577 HD1. For an individual like me, who cannot speak clearly, this will allow me better communication because having a safety profile ahead of time will 911 responders know how to help me and can make sure that I get safe and fast medical attention. This bill is important to me because I need help to go to the hospital. I cannot speak my needs clearly to the emergency operator and I have been disabled my entire life. This bill would help me communicate my needs clearly. Thank you for letting me testify in support of HB1577 HD1.

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1577 HD1, Relating to 911 services

My name is Celeste Kagimoto and I support HB1577 HD1. When my elderly mother fell down in our home, the emergency responders took a long time asking her questions which she did not really understand because she mainly speaks Japanese. Having smart911 would have given emergency responders the information they needed about my mom before she had a fall. It would help me too because I have a disability and cannot answer a lot of questions about myself during an emergency. Thank you for letting me testify on HB1577 HD1.

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

The Thirty-Third Legislature

State Capitol

State of Hawai'i

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members.

HB1577 HD1 Testimony in support.

I am in strong support of HB1577 HD1, 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 HD1 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. I like that it is easy to sign up for, and that it allows me to add information about who lives with me.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1577 HD1.

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:40:21 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1577 HB RELATING TO 911 SERVICES

HAWAII AGING POPULATION IS ON THE RISE

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:50:51 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Kaili Swan. I am a self-advocate from Oahu, and I support HB1577 HD1. I currently use Smart911, and I really like it. It works well and gives me peace of mind knowing that if I ever have to call 911, first responders will already have important information about me. They have a category for emergency preparedness to input your access and functional needs.

People with disabilities sometimes communicate differently or may need extra support during an emergency. A safety profile system allows us to share important information ahead of time, like communication needs, disabilities, mobility aid, or medical information that responders should know.

This helps first responders understand how to help us more quickly and safely.

I also support the pilot program and working group so the State can make sure the system works well across all counties and reaches people with disabilities and kupuna throughout Hawai'i.

Programs like this help people with disabilities feel safer and more confident calling 911 when we need help.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1577 HD1.

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:16:22 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Luning	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my many roles as a parent (having worked on Act 143 in 2023 regarding Critical Emergency Response in schools), long-time community advocate, trauma clinician, non-profit director, and member of several Boards and Councils, I support this measure in the intention to find the appropriate system to get important information to emergency responders about the unique needs of the people they are serving in the most feasible and effective way possible.

Person-centered information about functional needs can change everything.

Our youngest son recently had an accident at his gym that involved a perceive head-trauma. He was taken by ambulance to the emergency room and treated in the trauma unit and ICU. More than \$100,000 dollars of charges later, it was determined he was totally fine and just a little anxious in his responses because he was being treated like he was dying (*being he is a kid with a little medical trauma, which is what Act 143 is based on*). During the course of his care, there was no place to put the person-centered historical information based on his unique needs and background. As his parent, I told every provider I came across, but the information simply didn't have a natural place to be considered his course of care.

Contextual information reduces bias, confusion, and inappropriate care responses (*that can often unintentionally exacerbate*).

Emergencies are emergencies. Everyone is doing their best to reduce risk of severe injury and loss of life. Our first responders, my husband among them, are some of our truest community heroes.

They deserve nothing but the absolute BEST training, technology, equipment, and support to do their jobs well, and know they are contributing both to positive short AND long-term outcomes of the people they serve.

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:24:06 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie N. Greenleaf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Angus L.K. McKelvey and Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Mike Gabbard and Chris Lee, and Committee Members,

My name is Natalie Nohealani Greenleaf. Mahalo for letting me share my testimony. I am writing in **strong support of HB1577 HD1**. I live in Lahaina, Maui. I am a member of Maui SAAC, and a self-advocate.

This bill is important because it will make sure I, and other people with disabilities, get the help we need. I would like to have this like Oahu, it would be really helpful for the people in Maui County who have disabilities. It would be helpful for first responders to know what my disability is and what medications I use in an emergency. This would be good in an emergency, so that they know how to help me and can prepare before they get there.

I am in **strong support of HB1577 HD1**.

Mahalo for listening and for your time,

Natalie

3.19.2026

Committee on Government Operations

To: Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and
Committee Members:

My name is Alita Smith.

Thank you for this chance to speak in (Support) of **HB1577 HD1**.

I am from Waimea Easterseals, Kauai.

The Smart911 program will help 911 responders help more quickly in an
emergency as they will know important details (information) about my family
before they arrive at my home.

Mahalo for allowing me to speak

Alita Smith
4252 Puu Pinao Place
Koloa HI 96756

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:23:39 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Demarius Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Paul Pascua, and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of HB1577, which aims to improve the safety, reliability and effectiveness of our 911 emergency response system

Access to a dependable 911 system is not a luxury but a lifeline. In moments of crisis, whether it is a medical emergency, a fire, or a situation involving personal safety, every second matters. Any delay, miscommunication or system failure can mean the difference between life and death.

Living in Hawaii presents unique challenges including geographic isolation, rural communities and limited access to emergency resources in certain areas. These factors make it even more critical that our 911 infrastructure is modern, well funded and properly staffed.

Hb1577 represents an important step toward ensuring that all residents and visitors can rely on a fast and effective emergency response when they need it the most. Strengthening this system will not only save lives but also build public trust and confidence in our emergency services.

I urge you to support HB1577 and prioritize the safety and well being of our communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Paul Pascua

LATE

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:14:16 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Muralt	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Michelle Muralt and I support HB1577 because it will help keep me, my auntie, and others in my home safe during an emergency. This bill allows people to create a voluntary safety profile that includes important information like medical needs, disabilities, and how we communicate. If I have to call 911 for my auntie or someone else in my household, emergency responders can see that information right away and know how to help us safely. This is very important because not everyone uses a cell phone all the time. If my phone dies or I need to use a landline, I still need our information to be available. This bill helps make sure that information is there when it is needed. It will help protect kupuna, people with disabilities, and families like mine.

LATE

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:54:41 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic Gawrichevsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Angus L.K. McKelvey and Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Mike Gabbard and Chris Lee, and Committee Members,

My name is Dominic Gawrichevsky. Thank you for letting me share my testimony. I am writing in **strong support of HB1577 HD1**. I live in Maui. I am a self-advocate with the Maui Self-Advocacy Advisory Council.

This bill is important because I have a disability, and I was diagnosed with diabetes at 10 months after I was born. I almost died from diabetes before I was diagnosed, and that gives me anxiety if that came close to happening again. I know how to help my symptoms with energy bars, juice, and insulin to help my sugar levels, but not everyone knows how to help. Smart 911 helps me feel safer because first responders would know what kind of help I need if there were an emergency. This would help other people with disabilities stay safe on neighbor islands, too.

I am in **strong support of HB1577 HD1**.

Thank you for listening and for your time, and thank you to our Maui legislators for advocating to keep us safe.

DG

LATE

HB-1577-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:52:23 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Urayanza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Angus L.K. McKelvey and Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Mike Gabbard and Chris Lee, and Committee Members,

My name is Travis Urayanza. Thank you for letting me share my testimony. I am writing in **strong support of HB1577 HD1**. I live in Lahaina, Maui. I am a member of the Maui SAAC.

This bill is important because it gives first responders a good idea of what they are dealing with and how to help before they arrive. First responders only have such a short amount of time to make a decision on what to do. The more information they have about the person, their diagnoses, and their medication they have, the better they know how to help. It would be good to expand Smart 911 to our neighbor islands so that this option is available for people who want this support.

I am in **strong support of HB1577 HD1**.

Thank you for listening and for your time,

Travis