



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, MD**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKOLE

**JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD**  
ADMINISTRATOR

February 9, 2026

**TO:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members

**FROM:** John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to  
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

**RE:** **SB 2934 -- RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

**HEARING:** Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 1:05 pm; Conference Room 225

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 2934, with comments.

This bill proposes to purchase one advanced life support (ALS) ambulance and equipment for central Maui along with the personnel needed. As our island population grows, the need to meet the healthcare needs of the population is also necessary.

Central Maui, now facing substantial population growth, lacks an ALS ambulance. This leads to slower response times in medical emergencies, increasing risks of preventable death or long-term disability. An additional ambulance would fill this gap.

The measure's statewide air ambulance component also boosts equity and reliability across all islands. Flexible air coverage complements ground support, saving lives during time-sensitive emergencies.

SHPDA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of (SB2934)  
RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, February 09, 2026 at 1:05 PM | Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully requests  
2 \$1,750,000.00 and recurring funding to support the ambulance unit, staffing, station  
3 operations, and related needs, and requests that this measure be considered as a vehicle to  
4 provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the priorities and requests outlined  
5 in the Governor's executive budget request.

6 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure offering comments and  
7 proposed amendments.

8 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch  
9 (EMSIPSB), on behalf of the Department, respectfully submits this testimony in strong support  
10 of this measure, while respectfully requesting a targeted amendment to ensure alignment with  
11 related legislation and statewide emergency medical services planning efforts.

12 In partnership with county Emergency Medical Services (EMS) leadership, EMSIPSB has  
13 conducted a comprehensive review and primary needs assessment of ground ambulance  
14 resources statewide, with a forward-looking analysis of system needs over the next five years.  
15 This assessment was informed by current and historical 911 EMS response data, operational  
16 demand, population growth, geographic access, and system performance benchmarks.

1 **Data:**

2 Statewide 911 EMS data clearly demonstrate that Maui County is experiencing sustained and  
3 increasing demand for emergency medical services, particularly within Central Maui. Based on  
4 calendar year 2025 Maui County EMS data, there were more than 15,790 total 911 EMS  
5 responses countywide. Of these, over 5,342 emergency responses originated from Central Maui  
6 alone, accounting for more than 34 percent of all EMS responses in the county. The Kahului and  
7 Wailuku service areas, along with the broader Central Maui region, represent the highest  
8 concentration of EMS demand and consistently experience significant resource strain.

9 The Department recognizes that in calendar year 2025, approximately 90 percent of 911  
10 emergent EMS calls across Maui County were responded to in less than 19 minutes. The  
11 Department also monitors quality benchmarks that measure first patient contact time, with a  
12 target that 90 percent of emergent responses achieve first patient contact in less than 11  
13 minutes. Additionally, national EMS benchmarks recommend transport times from scene to  
14 hospital of less than 25 minutes. In Maui County, the current median transport time is  
15 approximately 34 minutes, reflecting the county's geographic challenges and the presence of  
16 remote and rural areas that are not within close proximity to acute care hospitals.

17 While the EMS system continues to perform at a high level given these constraints, EMSIPSB  
18 recognizes that sustained call volume, increasing demand in Central Maui, and longer transport  
19 times place ongoing pressure on unit availability and response reliability. EMSIPSB believes that  
20 the addition of an advanced life support 911 ambulance and associated staffing resources will  
21 improve system resilience, reduce unit hour utilization, and enhance overall quality of care for  
22 Maui County's 911 EMS system.

23 EMSIPSB strongly supports the portion of Senate Bill 2934 (SB2934) that appropriates funding  
24 for an additional 911 advanced life support ambulance to be based in Central Maui. This

1 request aligns with the Department’s strategic, data-driven plan for the placement of additional  
2 911 EMS resources over the next five years.

3 **Amendment Request:**

4 While supporting this measure, EMSIPSB respectfully requests that SB2934 be amended to  
5 focus solely on the 911 EMS ground ambulance request for Central Maui and that the air  
6 medical services provisions within the bill be removed or amended.

7 EMSIPSB makes this request to avoid duplication and to maintain alignment with parallel  
8 legislation addressing air medical services. Specifically, Senate Bill 3203 (SB3203) and its  
9 companion measure House Bill 2508 (HB2508), relating to air medical services, have been  
10 introduced based on the recommendations of Senate Concurrent Resolution 86 (2025), which  
11 established the Air Medical Working Group. These measures support the intent of the air  
12 medical provisions currently included in SB2934.

13 The Air Medical Working Group produced a comprehensive report exceeding 100 pages that  
14 outlines statewide recommendations for governance, oversight, integration, and sustainability  
15 of air medical services. SB3203 and HB2508 propose to provide resources to EMSIPSB to  
16 formally establish an Air Medical Section within EMSIPSB. This section would be responsible for  
17 implementing and integrating the Working Group’s recommendations into a coordinated,  
18 statewide air medical system.

19 EMSIPSB believes that addressing air medical services through SB3203 and HB2508 provides a  
20 more appropriate and comprehensive framework for this complex system-level work, while  
21 allowing SB2934 to remain focused on the immediate and critical need for additional 911  
22 ground ambulance resources in Central Maui.

23 For these reasons, EMSIPSB strongly supports SB2934, with the requested amendment to focus  
24 exclusively on the 911 EMS ambulance resource for Central Maui. The Department believes

1 that the addition of this resource will improve response reliability, operational efficiency, and  
2 overall quality of emergency medical care for the residents and visitors of Maui County.

3

4 **Offered Amendments:**

5 (1) Purchase one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in  
6 the central Maui area of the county of Maui and fund pay-related personnel costs for state-  
7 certified emergency medical services personnel. ~~and~~

8 ~~(2) Increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in~~  
9 ~~the State.]~~

10

11 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to  
12 strengthening Hawaii's emergency medical services system.

13

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:34:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sydni Tobin	Testifying for AMR Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sydni Tobin, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,  
Sydni Tobin  
Maui County EMS Worker



2/05/2026

Members of the committee:

My name is Mona Arcinas, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2934, to staff one advanced life support (ALS) ambulance unit to be based in central Maui.

Central Maui continues to experience rapid urban growth, with expanding residential communities, commercial developments, and increased population density. This growth has placed significant strain on existing emergency medical services. Current ambulance resources are stretched to cover large areas, resulting in longer response times that can critically impact patient outcomes - especially for time-sensitive emergencies.

Adding an ALS unit in central Maui will improve response coverage, reduce response times, and enhance the quality of prehospital care delivered to residents and visitors. This investment is an essential step toward building a resilient and responsive EMS system that matches the pace of our community's development.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2934 to ensure that our residents receive timely, lifesaving emergency medical care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mona Arcinas  
Operations Manager - AMR Maui County

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 3:01:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danh Richardson	Testifying for American Medical Response	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danh Richardson, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Danh Richardson**

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:18:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimberly Kiba	Testifying for AMR Maui, Full Time EMT-B at Medic 1	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kimberly Kiba, and I am a full-time EMT-Basic assigned to the only 911 contracted ambulance station currently serving Central Maui, covering a vast and diverse response area from Kahakuloa to Baldwin Beach Park. I am writing to express my strong and urgent support for the placement of a second ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day on duty, we witness firsthand the growing strain on emergency medical services in this region. Medic 1 responds to an average of approximately 18 calls per day. This call volume alone is significant, but the true burden becomes clear when considering the geography, traffic patterns, rural access challenges, and the additional responsibilities placed on this single unit.

Central Maui is not an isolated service area. A strategically placed second ambulance would not only split the existing district—reducing response times and easing workload for Medic 1—but could also extend coverage into Paia, helping relieve Medic 2, and reach toward the border of Medic 3’s district, improving response times for surrounding communities as well. One additional unit would strengthen the entire regional EMS system, not just one town.

Another critical issue is the role of Medic 10, the only other town ambulance, whose primary responsibility is interfacility transport (IFT). When Medic 10 is occupied with a transfer, additional transfers from clinics or incoming flights—such as those from Hawaii Life Flight, Optimum Air Medicine, and others—are redirected to Medic 1. This pulls the only true 911 emergency ambulance away from the community it is meant to protect.

When Medic 1 is tied up on a transfer or extended call, the next closest available ambulance may be in Kihei or Haiku. In emergency medicine, minutes matter. Delays in response can mean the difference between recovery and permanent disability—or even life and death. The community we serve deserves timely emergency care, not coverage gaps created by system strain.

This is not simply a matter of convenience or workload. It is a matter of public safety, patient outcomes, and equitable access to emergency medical care for the residents and visitors of Central Maui. Call volume is increasing, population and tourism continue to grow, and the current single-ambulance model no longer reflects the real needs of this community.

As someone who answers these calls every day, who sees the stress on providers, and most importantly who sees the faces of patients waiting for help, I can say with certainty: Central Maui needs a second ambulance. This addition would save time, strengthen regional coverage, support EMS crews, and ultimately save lives.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the health and safety of our community.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Kiba

FTO EMT-Basic, Medic 1

AMR Maui

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:16:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsi Peterson	Testifying for Maui County Paramedic Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Kelsi Peterson** and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect **response times and patient outcomes**. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, **patients wait longer for critical care**.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would **significantly** improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure **safer, more reliable** care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a **necessary investment** in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Kelsi Peterson**

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:02:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kailani Andaya	Testifying for Maui County EMS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kailani Andaya and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Kailani L S Andaya**

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:38:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Bailey	Testifying for AMR	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support. Thanks.

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 11:46:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maren Anka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of Funding for an Additional Ambulance in Central Maui**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name Maren and I am a current Paramedic with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care. At this moment, there is only ONE dedicated 911 ambulance for all of Central Maui, including Kahului Airport (which get incredibly impacted with thousands of visitors on a daily basis).

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,  
Maren Anka  
Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 12:45:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Blish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Blish, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Scott Blish**

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 1:21:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shayna-Lynn Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shayna-Lynn Hill, and I am a current Paramedic with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Shayna-Lynn Hill**

Maui County EMS Paramedic

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 1:55:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
douglas vant groenewout	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear sirs/ma'am.

Maui's population has grown substantially in my 60 years as a resident and my 37 year tenure as a paramedic in maui county. Central Maui, the area in question regarding this bill, is feeling the brunt of the needed development (housing) but has not increased its ambulance sevice in these 37 years despite this incredible growth. The ambulance, yes the ONE contracted 911 ambulance stationed in this area has reached its unit hour utilization. There is a fee for service ambulance in this area, but it is just that: a fee for service ambulance , largely doing interfacility transfers... thus, outlying area 911 ambulances are therefore forced to respond to central maui , delaying patient care that per the creed of prehospital medicine, demands it to be TIMELY.

This additional ambulance is long overdue. ask any crushing chest pain, or acute asthmatic patinet who had to wait the 15-20 minutes for advanced life support care. mahalo for your time,

Doug vant groenewout. MICT. EMTP-1076

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 1:57:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kingdon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislators:

I am writing in support of SB2394 (and companion bill HB2173) with the following corrections/amendments that I understand are in progress:

- Currently, Central Maui (Wailuku, Kahului, Waikapu, Waiehu, Waihee, Puunene, Sprecklesville) only has *one* state-contracted 9-1-1 ambulance, based in Wailuku. Until corrected/amended, the current language of the bill indicates there are two. A second ambulance currently based in Kahului is a *private* ambulance that is focused on performing inter-facility transfers, and cannot be relied upon for 9-1-1 EMS coverage. That means that Maui's most populous and high call-volume district has only (1) 9-1-1 ambulance, whereas other highly populated districts such as West Maui, South Maui, and Upcountry Maui each have two. Even Molokai now has two. Other than Central Maui, the only other districts with only one state-contracted 9-1-1 ambulance in Maui County are the rural areas of Lanai and Hana.
- Current language in this bill referencing "air ambulance services" should be removed from this bill, allowing this statute to focus on improving our ground EMS coverage. For many years, our Maui County EMS system did in fact include Maui Medevac helicopter services, however rotor craft service was cleaved from our system by the State of Hawaii Department of Health in the last iteration of its RFP/contract process, thus air services should not be conflated with ground in this bill. We are fortunate to have a good working relationship with REACH 48, which has taken on sole responsibility for EMS helicopter services within Maui County.

I am writing this testimony representing only myself and my community as a citizen, though it is relevant that I am a working paramedic and also have a background in public health and EMS system design. Maui County is in desperate need of this additional asset in our Central district, and I do not use the term 'desperate' lightly. Not only, as noted, is this the most populous and high-volume district within our system, but when out-of-district response and ambulance units are called into the 'vortex' of Central Maui, this has a repercussive effect, including depletion of paramedic resources in those other districts. Other first responders such as the Maui County Fire Department are valuable, but are strictly Basic Life Support (BLS) providers. Maui County EMS

is the only Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider, with paramedics on each unit, bringing extensive training and scope of practice including advanced airways, vascular access, dozens of emergency medications, life-saving cardiovascular interventions and cardiothoracic procedures, and other essential ALS assessment and treatment modalities to the patient's side.

An additional ambulance is needed not only for routine response, but also as an asset in the event of multiple casualty incidents (MCI). From frequent moderate-scale MCIs, such as multi-vehicle collisions, to infrequent but large-scale MCIs, such as firestorms and tsunamis, Maui County residents and state legislators should be shocked that once the Wailuku ambulance is on a case, the next-closest state-contracted ambulances would be coming from Kihei and Haiku (over 8 miles and 12 miles from Kahului proper, respectively) - and that is only if those ambulances are in station and not already on calls of their own. We do have one paramedic special response unit based in Ma'alaea, which does provide rapid response to districts including Central Maui, but as our only unit capable of and nationally recognized for special operations including marine ALS (launching with Coast Guard Station Maui), tactical paramedicine (embedding with Maui Police SRT), and medical incident command (such as at the August 2023 firestorms), this unit needs to be preserved as a non-transporting specialized asset - but does need plentiful ambulances to whom a response unit paramedic may delegate patients as they triage casualties.

The community will suffer longer response times and increased morbidity and mortality without improvement of our coverage via the crucial addition of this Central Maui ambulance.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic  
Wailuku, Hawaii

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 2:32:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalina Venable	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shalina Venable, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

On a daily basis multiple units from outer districts pick up 911 calls in Central Maui and are then unable to return to their districts, which then leaves those areas open with no ambulance coverage. When this happens, for example the West Side, units run Central calls then have a 30-45 minute return time to their district. Often enough are then responding to another 911 call in their district from Central Maui, 30+ minutes response time. This adds strain to MFD who co-responds and to the community who has to wait for an ambulance.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Shalina Venable**

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 2:34:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Autumn Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Autumn Hill, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Central Maui is currently served by Medic 1 as the only ambulance unit covering an exceptionally large and complex district. This district includes the Kahului–Wailuku metro area, which serves as the primary hub for Central Maui and has an estimated population of approximately 164,264 residents. This number does not account for the additional outlying and rural communities also included in the district, many of which are located along long stretches of highway or in areas that cannot be accessed quickly or easily. These geographic challenges further delay response times during emergencies.

With only one ambulance assigned to such a large and densely populated area, response times are inevitably slowed. High call volume often forces crews to rush patient care in order to clear one call and respond to the next, which is not conducive to providing the highest standard of medical care. When Medic 1 is unavailable, ambulances are frequently pulled from neighboring districts to cover Central Maui. This practice not only increases response times for Central Maui patients but also leaves the districts those ambulances are pulled from without adequate emergency medical coverage.

Additionally, the sustained call volume in Central Maui does not allow EMS providers sufficient time to rest and recover between calls. This creates a working environment that is increasingly unsafe for providers and can negatively impact clinical performance, particularly when making critical, time-sensitive, life-saving decisions and interventions.

An additional ambulance assigned to Central Maui would significantly improve response times, allow crews to provide more thorough and effective patient care, reduce reliance on units from other districts, and enhance safety for both patients and EMS personnel. Most importantly, it

would help ensure that all communities—both urban and remote—receive timely and reliable emergency medical services.

This funding is not a luxury; it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both residents and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

Autumn Hill

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 3:35:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Phillip Wu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Phillip Wu, and I'm a Maui resident speaking in strong support of establishing a new ambulance station in Central Maui.

Emergency response time saves lives. As Maui continues to grow and traffic increases, our current ambulance coverage is stretched too thin. Central Maui is a critical hub for residents, workers, and visitors, and delays in emergency care put lives at unnecessary risk.

A new ambulance station would reduce response times, support our EMTs and paramedics, and strengthen Maui's ability to respond to everyday emergencies and large-scale incidents alike. This is a practical, responsible investment in public safety.

I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for your time and service.

Phillip Wu

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 3:55:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikki Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am a nurse and wife of an EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui. This area consistently experiences a high demand for emergency medical services. An additional ambulance would help improve response times, and ensure safer, more reliable care for the residents of Maui. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are frequently stretched beyond capacity. This is a necessary investment in the health and safety of our community. I kindly ask for your support in this measure.

Respectfully,

Nikki Richardson

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 4:26:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Soule	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am thrilled to see an ambulance request for Central Maui. As a retired EMT, I've seen the increase of residents in the Central area double, and since I started my career in 1996 there are still only 2 ambulances, causing delays in our central community getting care. Please vote YES for another long awaited ambulance for the Kahului/Wailuku area. Mahalo!

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:19:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NATHAN DANG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of Funding for an Additional Ambulance in Central Maui**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nathan Dang, and I am a current Paramedic serving the county of Maui. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,  
Nathan Dang  
Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:53:26 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kapena hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kahului only has ONE ambulance currently servicing the busiest and one of the largest districts in Maui county that has been growing for over 30 years without any additional units while practically every other district has two units. All of our visitors travel to and from Kahului, substantially adding to the number of people within this district.

it is a shame for people to not survive while in the shadow of the hospital because of waiting for units from other districts to arrive. Also, this takes away from the need of those districts, causing delays in care for them.

please support this bill which would provide for an additional ALS ambulance and crew for Kahului, Maui.

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:23:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholina Tompkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicholina Tompkins, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Nicholina Tompkins**

Maui County EMS Worker

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:05:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lane Kahanaoi-Nichols	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lane Kahanaoi-Nichols, and I am a licensed paramedic who has worked in EMS for the past 10 years here on Maui. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. I am stationed at Medic 3 in Kihei. When the town units are unavailable, our station becomes the next unit up for town coverage. In practice, that means we are routinely pulled into town coverage and are frequently operating away from our primary area.

This creates delays in care—both for patients in town who are waiting for an available unit, and for patients in our district when we’re already committed elsewhere. In emergency medicine, time is everything. Minutes matter for heart attacks, strokes, respiratory distress, severe trauma, and cardiac arrest. When the closest appropriate unit isn’t available, patients wait longer for critical interventions, and crews are forced to stretch thinner across a wider area.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would improve response times, reduce the frequency of units being pulled out of their districts, and provide more reliable coverage for residents and visitors. It would also reduce burnout among first responders who are repeatedly operating at maximum capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and EMS personnel. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

Lane Kahanaoi-Nichols

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:55:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Alverio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support to: Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to purchase of one advanced life support ambulance and related equipment to be based in central Maui, fund pay-related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel, and increase the predictability and stability of available air ambulance services for all islands in the State.

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 4:47:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
william t watkins jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This rig ideally should cover East Kahului as well as Paia and the lower portion of Haiku. Thanks you.

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:27:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaikane Beam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaikane Beam. I am 37 years old and have been a resident of Kahului and Wailuku, Maui for my entire life. I am also a Maui County Firefighter, stationed at Wailuku Fire Station (Engine 1).

I am writing this testimony in support of HB2173. As firefighters, we are dispatched to all medical related emergency calls along with the ambulance (ALS) as first responders. We work closely with and witness firsthand the demand and call volume that has increased over the years in the central area.

Many times, due to the significant call volume, we arrive alongside medics from outside our district to handle these calls. The ambulance crews work tirelessly to make sure response times are as fast as possible, but are limited due to the short staffing of ambulance and personnel.

As both a resident and first responder, having another ambulance in our district would be beneficial to our community and ensure that if my family is in any kind of emergency, I can be confident that they will be provided the best and most timely care possible.

Ambulance personnel work long shifts and dedicate themselves to providing high quality care. We need to make sure they have enough resources to do their job properly. Our population in our central area keeps growing, and our emergency services need to match this growth. Adding more ambulances and personnel is long overdue and this is our time to change that.

Please support and implement this bill, and give our workers and community what we deserve.

Mahalo.

Kaikane Beam - Engine 1

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers  
K. Kauano'e Batangan  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
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February 12, 2026

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2026; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB 2934, RELATING TO AMBULANCES**

I support this measure to fund the Department of Health to fund an advanced life support ambulance to be based in Central Maui.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Central Maui's growing population has a significant need for additional emergency services.
2. Funding this effort would help reduce death and disability among residents and visitors by ensuring more timely response to 911 calls.
3. This measure is consistent with Maui Island Plan policy 4.6.1.f: "Encourage expansion and improved access to emergency care in all communities."

Thank you for your consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 3:36:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Aloy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Goodmorning,

I write this as Supervisor of the Kihei Ambulance unit with American Medical Response on Maui, I am here to submit testimony for a much needed Central Maui ambulance.

As you all know, Maui has significantly increased in population without any addition to Emergency Services in over 20 years. I think the numbers speak for itself, but I firmly stand my ground in saying that Central Maui needs another 911 ambulance response unit.

Response times for Central Maui have increased and time is of the essence when we are dealing with medical emergencies. If the single, stand alone 911 Central ambulance is on a call, the next closest unit to respond to Central Maui is from Kihei (>15 min response time).

Personnel become overworked and fatigued, which could lead to costly mistakes. The lone Central Maui ambulance can run up to 24 calls in 24 hours on some occasion. Anyone think that's healthy or not grounds for being "overworked"? I'm sure everyones answer would be the same.

I think its time we do Maui County residents/visitors a favor and give them the services they deserve. We are in DESPERATE NEED of another Central Maui Ambulance, enough said.

**LATE**

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:14:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
luke nagle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Luke Nagle I am a paramedic working full time with AMR/Maui County EMS and also as an instructor with Kapiolani College/Maui EMS Training Center. I appreciate your time and the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Central Maui desperately needs additional EMS resources and adding a second Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance to the Wailuku/Kahului district would be a step in the right direction. A common misconception is that a second ALS ambulance exists in the district (Medic10) but this unit does not fall under the existing State EMS contract for Maui County and its primary purpose is for Interfacility Transports (IFTs) and its use in the 911 system is on a "kokua" basis only. The reality is that this unit is often not available to help out the 911 system as it plays a crucial role in both Maui based IFTs and Interisland IFTs in conjunction with both fixed and rotor wing aeromedical transport operations. Furthermore it's use in helping out the with the ever increasing 911 load only enables the system status quo and dampers the perception of need in Central Maui. With the Wailuku ambulance (Medic1) being one of the busiest units in the State, it desperately needs full time assistance in carrying that heavy load. It is worth mentioning that with Maui Memorial Hospital being Maui's only hospital and sole destination for AMR/Maui County EMS ambulances, it is a regular occurrence that units from outlying districts (Upcountry, South Maui, and West Maui) often "catch calls" or are pulled into Town leaving these districts open and leading to delayed responses. As a team member at the Napili ambulance (Medic5) I experience this on a weekly basis and commonly find myself apologizing to patients, families, and other responders for our delayed response and less commonly but nonetheless have seen bad outcomes for this same reason.

Again I thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Luke Nagle MICT

Haiku, HI

**LATE**

**SB-2934**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:15:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas S Raymer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nick Raymer, and I am a current EMS worker with Maui County. I am writing in strong support of funding for an additional ambulance in Central Maui.

Every day, our crews see firsthand how call volume, traffic congestion, and unit availability directly affect response times and patient outcomes. Central Maui consistently experiences high demand for emergency medical services, and when all units are committed, patients wait longer for critical care.

An additional ambulance in Central Maui would significantly improve response times, reduce strain on existing crews, and ensure safer, more reliable care for residents and visitors alike. It would also help prevent burnout among EMS personnel who are routinely stretched beyond capacity.

This funding is not a luxury—it is a necessary investment in public safety, community health, and the wellbeing of both patients and first responders. I respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of emergency services in Maui County.

Respectfully,

**Nick Raymer**

Maui County EMS Worker