



**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'ŌKELE

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

February 4, 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 3134 -- RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF  
CARE**

**HEARING:** Friday, February 6, 2026 @ 1:00 pm; Conference Room 225

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA supports SB 3134, with comments.

This bill is intended to modernize Hawai'i's emergency medical services statutes by updating them to a comprehensive, time-sensitive emergency medical systems of care model that reflects how emergencies are managed today. By aligning with national best practices, this bill supports coordinated, evidence-based care for critical emergencies, standardized statewide protocols, and improved preparedness for disasters and mass-casualty incidents so residents on every island can receive timely, effective emergency care.

This bill will strengthen Hawai'i's ability to save lives in time-sensitive emergencies by modernizing EMS law into an integrated "emergency medical systems of care" framework that connects pre-hospital response, hospitals, trauma and critical care, and disaster response statewide. By aligning with national best practices, the bill supports coordinated, evidence-based care for emergencies like trauma, heart attacks, strokes, sepsis, and burns, which can improve survival and reduce long-term disability. It also expands statewide coordination tools such as standardized protocols, stronger data collection and evaluation (including a trauma registry), improved communications and 9-1-1 dispatch oversight, and better monitoring of air-medical services, which helps

*SB 3134 testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued.*

ensure residents in rural and neighbor island communities receive timely, consistent emergency care and improving preparedness for disasters and mass casualty incidents.

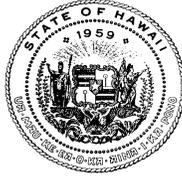
We defer to the Department of Health the costs and implementation details; and we thank EMS program and the members of the Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee (EMSAC) for their support and advice on these needed statewide system improvements.

In closing, this bill will bring Hawai'i's emergency response framework into alignment with modern best practices and today's real-world needs. By strengthening statewide coordination, communications, and quality improvement across the full emergency medical systems of care, especially for time-sensitive conditions like trauma, stroke, heart attack, sepsis, and burns, this bill will help ensure that residents on every island can access timely, consistent, lifesaving care when minutes matter most.

Thank you for hearing SB 3134.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of (SB3134)**  
**RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE**

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

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 1:00PM | Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports this measure  
3 offering comments and amendments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The State of Hawaii Department of Health’s Emergency Medical  
5 Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch (EMSIPSB) strongly supports this measure and  
6 provides testimony on behalf of the Department to modernize Hawaii Revised Statutes §321-  
7 221 through §321-230 and strengthen the State’s emergency medical systems of care.

8 Hawaii’s existing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) statutes were developed decades ago and  
9 reflect emergency medical services practices and system structures that largely date back to the  
10 late 1980s, when EMS was primarily viewed as a means of transporting patients to the hospital.  
11 Since that time, the role of EMS has evolved significantly. Today, EMS is an integrated and  
12 essential component of the healthcare and public health system, providing out-of-hospital,  
13 community-based care that includes assessment, treatment, stabilization, telehealth-supported  
14 services, and coordination of care, in addition to acute medical response and patient transport.  
15 This measure is a critical step forward in updating Hawaii’s statutory framework to better

1 reflect present-day emergency medical services practice and the evolving public health role of  
2 modern emergency medical systems of care.

3 By modernizing and clarifying key statutory definitions, the bill recognizes the full scope of  
4 modern EMS systems and promotes improved coordination across all islands, including both  
5 urban and rural communities. These updates will also ensure that the State Department of  
6 Health and EMS agencies have the statutory authority and flexibility to integrate state-of-the-  
7 art technologies and community-based strategies to expand access to care. This includes the  
8 use of mobile integrated health, community paramedicine, and telehealth services to better  
9 meet local community needs, reduce barriers to care, and strengthen continuity across the  
10 emergency and healthcare delivery system.

11 Passage of this measure is essential to Hawaii's ability to access and fully leverage federal  
12 funding opportunities, including the Rural Health Care Transformation Program. Outdated  
13 statutory language currently creates barriers to eligibility and limits the State's ability to expand  
14 rural EMS services and integrated systems of care. By aligning statutory definitions with current  
15 practice and national standards, this measure positions Hawaii to meet federal requirements,  
16 maximize available matching funds, and make strategic investments in rural EMS capacity,  
17 workforce development, data sharing, and coordinated systems of care.

18 These statutory updates will strengthen emergency response capabilities statewide, resulting in  
19 improved health outcomes across Hawaii, particularly in rural and underserved communities,  
20 while ensuring the responsible and effective use of state and federal resources.

21 Finally, the Department respectfully requests that amendments adopted in HB1752 and its  
22 companion bill, SB2139, be incorporated into SB3134 where appropriate to ensure alignment  
23 across measures and to avoid duplication or conflicting statutory language. These amendments  
24 include a technical update to advisory committee membership, replacing the reference to the  
25 Adjutant General with the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

1 For these reasons, the Department of Health strongly supports this measure and urges its  
2 passage.

3 **Offered Amendments:** (b) The advisory ~~committee~~ council shall be composed of  
4 ~~twenty~~ twenty-three members: ~~three~~ four nonvoting ex-officio members, who shall be the  
5 director of transportation, ~~the adjutant general,~~ **administrator of the Hawaii emergency**  
6 **management agency**, ~~the executive director of the Hawaii 9-1-1 board,~~ and the administrator  
7 of the state health planning and development agency,

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

**JOSH GREEN**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
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3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
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**STEPHEN F. LOGAN**  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

**PHILLIP L. MALLORY**  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3134  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM OF CARE  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 4, 2026

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee:

The Department of Defense provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB3134**.

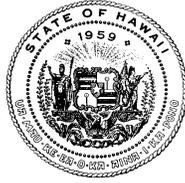
This bill will modernize Hawaii's emergency medical services statutes to align with current best practices. It addresses the complexities of modern time-sensitive emergency medical systems of care and addresses gaps in coordination, integration and resource deployment that have been exposed in recent emergency events. It also clarifies the Department of Health's role in statewide oversight, planning, data collection, and system evaluation, and strengthens the statutory framework supporting emergency communications, air-medical services, disaster preparedness, and quality improvement efforts, while also reinforcing the advisory role of the Emergency Medical Systems Advisory Council. Additionally, by aligning Hawaii's statutes with nationally recognized standards, this bill will enhance statewide preparedness for disasters and mass casualty incidents, and strengthen coordination among emergency responders, healthcare facilities and public safety partners.

Our department would also like to highlight that we support related bills, HB1752 and SB2139 which also propose amendments to Section §321-225 by replacing the Adjutant General with the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) as the ex-officio on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) to ensure that the formulation of policy is aligned and coordinated with the state's emergency management response and recovery operations. The Department of Health is supportive of this proposed change.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for your support in this measure and appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony. If you have any follow-on questions, please feel free to call me or our Director of Legislative Affairs, Brigadier General (Retired) Neal Mitsuyoshi at 808-369-3562, [neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov](mailto:neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov).

MG Stephen F. Logan, [Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov](mailto:Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1001

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



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

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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*In reply, please refer to:  
File: 26-004*

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3134 (SB3134)  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE**

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

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB3134.

**Hawai'i EMS statutes are now approximately 50 years old and no longer reflect the changing role of EMS. Currently. Modernizing the EMS statutes will facilitate the adoption of integrated systems of care in the pre-hospital setting including community paramedicine and new technologies such as telemedicine.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Terrence L. Jones, MD, FACEP  
Hawaii County, EMS Medical Director  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File: 26-001

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3134 (SB3134)  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE**

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

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB3134.

The existing statutes were developed decades ago. Since then the quality and scope of Emergency Medical Care has improved and expanded. This measure will modernize and accurately define current systems of pre-hospital Emergency Medical Systems and essential communication systems. The measure will allow Hawaii to continue to improve the delivery of out of hospital Emergency Medical Care by implementing communication and assessment tools that were not possible when the statutes were previously adopted.

This measure will also allow access to funding from federal sources, including the Rural Health Care Transformation Program. Utilization of available funding to support delivery of communication tools and assessment of emergency patients in rural EMS locations is possible with the proposed definition updates in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Kuroda, MD  
Oahu County, EMS Medical Director  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File: 26-003

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3134 (SB3134)  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE**

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

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB3134.

I support SB3134 because it brings Hawaii's EMS statutes into alignment with the realities of modern emergency medical care. EMS is no longer limited to transport—it now provides assessment, treatment, stabilization, telehealth-supported services, and community-based care across all islands. This modernization directly supports the Rural Health Transformation Project, and updating the statutory framework ensures EMS providers have the authority and flexibility needed to deliver these services effectively and to strengthen coordination across both rural and urban communities.

This bill also removes outdated barriers that limit Hawaii's ability to expand rural EMS capacity and access federal funding opportunities. By aligning definitions with national standards, SB3134 positions the state to invest strategically in workforce development, data systems, and integrated models of care. For these reasons, I strongly support SB3134 and urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Eric Vaughan, MD, FACEP, FAEMS  
Kauai County, EMS Medical Director  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
February 6, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Lui Hokoana, Interim Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

#### SB 3134 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

University of Hawai'i Community Colleges offers its testimony in support with considerations of SB 3134, which seeks to modernize Hawai'i's emergency medical services (EMS) statutes to better align with current best practices in emergency care, workforce preparation, and system coordination.

Hawai'i's existing EMS statutory framework would benefit from updates that reflect contemporary clinical standards, evolving scopes of practice, and integrated systems-of-care models that are now widely recognized at the national level. Modernized statutes can provide clearer guidance for EMS governance, promote consistency across counties, and support quality assurance and performance improvement across the emergency response continuum. University of Hawai'i Community Colleges recognize the importance of statutory alignment between workforce education, credentialing, and real-world clinical practice. Currently, the EMS programs are offered through Kapi'olani Community College. Updating EMS statutes to reflect current best practices supports stronger alignment between educational curricula, certification expectations, and the competencies required of today's EMS professionals. This is particularly important in Hawai'i, where geographic isolation and uneven access to emergency care heighten the need for a well-prepared, adaptable EMS workforce. At the same time, while University of Hawai'i Community Colleges is supportive of the bill overall, we note that implementation of an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) program would require additional services and resources to meet required accreditation and instructional standards. Specifically, the AEMT pathway would necessitate approximately 200 additional hours of instruction beyond the current EMT program, along with expanded faculty capacity, clinical coordination, and instructional support at Kapi'olani Community College. These considerations are important to ensure that statutory modernization translates into high-quality, sustainable workforce preparation rather than unfunded mandates on education providers.

In addition, modern EMS statutes that emphasize system integration can strengthen coordination between pre-hospital care, hospitals, and community-based services, improving patient outcomes and overall system resilience. Such alignment supports Hawai'i's broader public health goals and enhances emergency preparedness across island communities.

## Conclusion

SB 3134 represents a meaningful step toward modernizing Hawai'i's emergency medical services framework in a manner consistent with national best practices. University of Hawai'i Community Colleges support the intent of the bill and appreciate the Legislature's focus on strengthening EMS systems statewide. As implementation moves forward, we encourage continued collaboration with education and workforce partners to ensure that programmatic expectations are aligned with available resources and accreditation requirements. With these considerations in mind, University of Hawai'i Community Colleges respectfully supports SB 3134.

**SB-3134**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:21:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support. Thanks.

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Thinh Nguyen, M.D.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3134  
Relating to Emergency Medical Systems of Care**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB3134, which modernizes Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §§321-221 through 321-230 to reflect a more integrated and contemporary emergency medical systems of care framework.

Hawaii's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) statutes do not align with current emergency care practices and system needs. Advances in clinical practice, communications, and care coordination have transformed emergency response into an integrated continuum of care that extends beyond pre-hospital treatment and transport. This measure modernizes existing statute to reflect current practice, support coordinated systems of care, and ensure Hawaii's emergency medical framework is positioned to meet the needs of both rural and urban communities.

Supporting this legislation is critical to ensuring Hawaii can fully leverage available federal dollars through the Rural Health Care Transformation Program. By modernizing outdated statutes, the State removes structural barriers that currently limit eligibility and scalability of rural EMS and integrated systems of care. This bill enables Hawaii to align state policy with federal funding requirements, maximize federal matching opportunities, and strategically invest in rural EMS infrastructure, workforce development, data interoperability, and coordinated systems of care. The result is stronger emergency response capacity, improved health outcomes in rural communities, and responsible stewardship of both state and federal resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB3134.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Thinh Nguyen, M.D.

EMSAC (Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee) Member

Emergency Physician

Cecilia Wang, MD, FACS  
General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225 and Videoconference

### **SB3134 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE**

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

I am a physician member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) and respectfully submit testimony in strong support of SB3134. This measure modernizes Hawai'i's emergency medical services statutes by aligning terminology, definitions, and functions with current industry standards and best practices.

SB3134 replaces outdated terminology and clarifies statutory language to better reflect how emergency medical systems operate today. Of particular importance to EMSAC, the bill strengthens committee membership by adding key participants who are currently missing, including the Executive Director of the Hawai'i 9-1-1 Board and clinicians with experience in trauma and acute care services. These perspectives are essential to informed system-level planning and oversight.

In addition, this bill supports the Department of Health's ability to fully leverage funding available through the federal Rural Health Care Transformation Program, which is critical to advancing statewide emergency medical systems of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3134

### SB3134 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE

#### **Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
Hawaii State Capitol, room 225 and Videoconference

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Marilyn Matsunaga, and I serve as Chairperson of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT of SB3134** because it makes necessary updates that strengthen how emergency medical services are coordinated and delivered across Hawai'i.

Current statutes contain outdated language and structures that no longer reflect how emergency medical systems operate in practice. SB3134 modernizes those provisions so statute aligns with today's emergency response environment, where coordination across agencies, disciplines, and settings is essential to timely and effective care.

Clear and current statutory language matters in emergency medical services. It supports consistent expectations, improves coordination, and reduces confusion during situations where delays or misalignment can affect patient outcomes. SB3134 helps ensure that state law supports how emergency medical systems function throughout Hawaii.

The bill also helps position Hawai'i to move forward as emergency medical systems continue to evolve. Modernizing statutes now provide a stronger foundation for planning, coordination, and responsible use of resources in the future.

For these reasons, I urge you to support and pass SB3134.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
KAHU HO'OMALU PŪLIA

STATE OF HAWAII  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3134,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM OF CARE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 6, 2026

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **SUPPORT** testimony on Senate Bill 3134, which aims to update Hawai'i's emergency medical services statutes to reflect contemporary best practices.

Senate Bill 3134 recognizes the need for seamless integration of emergency medical services with broader emergency management systems.

This measure tackles the challenges posed by today's time-sensitive emergency medical systems and seeks to resolve the coordination, integration, and resource deployment gaps that have become apparent during recent emergencies. During emergency situations, time is an essential factor, and the state must prioritize necessary changes to systems that can ultimately lead to saving lives.

HIEMA endorses proposed amendments in related legislation (HB1752 & SB 2139) that would update the membership of the Hawai'i Emergency Medical Systems Advisory Council by replacing the Adjutant General with the Administrator of HIEMA as an ex-officio member.

This change ensures that emergency medical system policy is aligned with the State's overall emergency management and disaster response framework, facilitating streamlined planning, improved policy formulation, and efficient response coordination during emergencies.

HIEMA is committed to supporting initiatives that enhance resiliency in Hawai'i, provided they do not adversely impact the Governor's Executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3134.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300