

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Re: HB1410 HD2 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division, opposes HB1410 HD2. We oppose HB1410 HD2 as written. Specifically, we oppose the requirement that the City spend part of its Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues to regulate and operate ambulance services. Currently, the State through the Department of Health's Injury Prevention System Branch, gives EMS \$37.5 million to fund EMS. The City's share of the TAT revenue, which is \$44 million, goes into the City's general fund. The City can use the funds as is necessary, including to offset costs incurred from providing tourism-related services. HB1410 HD2 changes this funding structure. EMS no longer receives \$37.5 million from the State, and the City is required to use part of its TAT revenue specifically to fund EMS. This will adversely impact City departments who depend on TAT revenues for funding.

We oppose the repeal of the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund because this means that there is no longer a dedicated source of funds for EMS. This bill also increases the responsibilities of the counties, but does not increase the funding. The Emergency Medical Services Division has 20 ambulances that cover the entire island of Oahu. We run 90,000 calls and do not have enough funding to support such a high volume of calls. The City cannot afford to lose the specific allotments for emergency medical services from the EMS Special Fund

However, we support the community paramedic portion of this measure.

We, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, oppose HB1410 HD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Howe".

James D. Howe
Director Designate

Council Chair
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Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

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Director of Council Services
Sandy K. Baz

COUNTY COUNCIL
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March 15, 2017

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member

DATE: March 14, 2017

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB1410 HD2; EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as an individual in **opposition** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure repeals the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and appropriates an equal amount of general funds to the Department of Health (DOH) for emergency medical services. Establishes a pilot program and authorizes TAT expenditure for County regulation and operation of ambulance services. Establishes and appropriates funds for a community paramedic pilot program.

I strongly **oppose** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Transferring the operation, maintenance and regulation of ambulance services from the state to the counties with no adjustments to the counties' respective portions of the TAT, will put an unreasonable financial burden upon local government.
2. The counties have repeatedly explained to the state that the TAT is inadequate to pay for the ever increasing costs of county provided services such as water, sewer, police, fire and ocean safety protection and road maintenance. I stand in opposition to this proposal that seeks to shift the cost of ambulance services to the counties requires those services to be paid out of TAT funds, and fails to allocate any additional TAT revenues to the counties to pay for the services.
3. The current relationship and partnership in services the counties have with the state EMS should be maintained where the ambulance services fall under the DOH.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **oppose** this measure.

RC:dna

baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:03 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1410 on Mar 15, 2017 09:00AM*

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HB1410

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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