

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 214, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to certify emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to include personnel with proper certifications, to be deemed qualified to perform emergency medical services as EMTs in the State.

This bill allows proof of current certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as an EMT to meet the education requirements to perform emergency medical services as an EMT in the State.

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 16-85-54(b)(1) sets forth the current training requirements for EMTs, and a copy is enclosed herein. This rule requires, among other things: (1) completion of an EMT program; (2) completion of didactic training in cardiac defibrillation and IV access from a state-approved EMT program; (3) completion of 96 hours of clinical training obtained through a Board-approved agency; (4) passage of the NREMT's EMT examination; and (5) current certification as an EMT with the NREMT. This rule is the product of a multi-year collaborative effort that included a cross-section of the EMT community. Deliberately establishing a training requirement that exceeds the requirements for NREMT certification, this rule stemmed, in part, from the lack of health care providers in rural and neighbor island areas and the Board's efforts to bridge that gap with EMTs who have additional training and skills.

Although this bill will make it easier for certain trained professionals to become licensed as EMTs, it will do so at the cost of providing an enhanced level of emergency medical services. The Board does not intend to limit certain professionals, such as firefighters, ocean safety lifeguards, or police officers, from obtaining an EMT certificate

or higher levels of board certification. Licensure can be accomplished in a manner that will not jeopardize the current higher-tiered EMT scope of practice¹.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ HAR §16-85-59(a): Scope of practice. (a) The scope of practice of an EMT shall be restricted to the performance of basic emergency medical care and transportation of patients, cardiac defibrillation, and IV access.

(b) An application for certification shall be made under oath on a form to be provided by the board and shall require the applicant to provide:

(1) For EMT certification:

- (A) The appropriate fees including the application fee which shall not be refunded;
- (B) The applicant's full name;
- (C) The applicant's date of birth;
- (D) Evidence of completion of an EMT program;
- (E) Evidence of completion of didactic training in cardiac defibrillation and IV access from a State-approved EMT program;
- (F) Evidence of completion of 96 hours of clinical training experience obtained through a board-approved agency;
- (G) Evidence of passage of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT examination;
- (H) Evidence of current certification as an EMT from the NREMT;
- (I) Information regarding any conviction of any crime which has not been annulled or expunged;
- (J) If applicable, evidence of any certifications held or once held in other jurisdictions indicating the status of the certification and documenting any disciplinary action; and
- (K) Any other information the board may require to investigate the applicant's qualifications for certification.

HB-214

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 11:24:10 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Fortuno	HDOT ARFF UNIT	Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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February 1, 2021

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services,
and Homelessness
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 214, Relating to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC), and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support HB 214, which enables the Hawaii medical board to certify emergency medical responders other than emergency ambulance personnel.

County and state fire departments are an integral component of Hawaii's EMS system. County and state fire departments are expected to correspond and be dispatched by Hawaii's E-911 system to provide emergency medical care. In addition, the Revised Charter of the City and County Honolulu mandates the HFD to "provide emergency medical care."

Approximately 80 percent of the HFD's 1,100+ fire fighters are currently certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, which is the standard for educational requirements in most states. Of the 58,000 incidents, the HFD responded to in 2019, 69 percent of which were EMS-related. Without the passage of HB 214, a substantial downgrade in the level of care provided by county and state fire department Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) would result and negatively impact the outcomes of thousands of EMS patients.

HB 214 will allow the state to have a degree of oversight regarding training and performance by county and state fire department EMTs. In addition, it will supply the

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
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state with approximately 1,400 additional licensed EMTs in the event of a mass disaster.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 214.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/GL:cs

LATE

HB-214

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:50:32 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glen M Mitchell	HDOT-Airport	Support	No

Comments:

As the Airport Fire Chief at the Daniel K Inouye International Airport, I support HB214 as it will provide protection to my firefighters that are certified as NREMT & State Certified / NREMT responding to medical emergencies at the airport and on 911 Mutual-aid calls with the Honolulu Fire Department.

Glen M Mitchell, Airport Fire Chief

January 31, 2021

The Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room #420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: Support of House Bill 214 Relating to Emergency Medical Services

Our licensing board provides for a variety of very important services. This includes regulating professional service providers, conducting investigations, and advocating for consumer rights. Essentially, this is to ensure the consuming public is kept as safe as possible.

Specifically, the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is responsible for 52 different professions and vocations. Included are boxing promoters, tug boats operators, veterinary technicians, and almost every medical profession. Some 140,000 professionals are currently licensed. However, we have nationally registered (and vetted) public safety officials whom are charged with providing critical life-saving medical care yet are not held to any licensing standard. With this there is no safety-net for the consuming public.

The DCCA currently recognizes only EMS professionals who work on ambulances. This includes the Paramedic, Advanced EMT, and EMT with ambulance specific training. Omitted from licensing are approximately 1400 Nationally Registered EMT's who work in setting such as in the fire service, for ocean safety, and in law-enforcement. This unlicensed group represents approximately 50% of all EMS professionals in Hawai'i.

Therefore, to better serve the residents and visitors, all National Registered EMT's whom do not work on ambulances should be provided an opportunity in obtaining a license. This will provide essential government oversight that is critically important with regard to emergency health care.

Sincerely,

Jeff Zuckernick

HB-214

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 7:17:34 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

While I appreciate the intent of this bill to be more inclusive of first responders, I have concerns about the content and implication of its current language. Contrary to national recommendations to license at least (5) levels of practice: Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD), Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), basic and advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT and AEMT), and Paramedic, currently the State of Hawaii only licenses (3) levels: EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic. The rationale for the most recent addition, AEMT, was baffling in comparison to the need for EMD and especially EMR. Whereas there are at the most a handful of AEMTs in the state, no state training curriculum for AEMT, and no scope of practice for AEMT, there are hundreds - probably thousands - of EMRs in the state, as well as many EMDs. This is what is needed: State of Hawaii licensure for EMR (and EMDs). Further, EMR is the most appropriate and intended level of licensure and practice for First Responders. This is reinforced by national standards as well as some mention of first responders in HRS. To change certification standards in Hawaii to have (2) different levels of EMT would likely confuse matters more, when what our state needs for EMS certification is more clarity and consistency with national standards. Thank you for your consideration. -- David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

HB-214

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:00:01 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

LATE

HB-214

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:13:17 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thinh Nguyen, M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Thinh Nguyen, M.D. I am a board certified emergency physician and have been involved in emergency medical services for over 25 years, and have worked in Hawaii for last 19 years. I am currently the medical director for the Honolulu Fire Department. I support House Bill 214.

There was a "Reassessment of Emergency Medical Services" for the State of Hawaii published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Technical Assistance Team in October 2019 which stated the following:

Recommendations: The Legislature should: 1) Update the existing statute based on input from the Branch and stakeholders. 2) Allow licensed EMS personnel to work in non-ambulance health care settings using their State issued EMS license. 3) DCCA and/or the Hawaii Medical Board should issue a license to qualified applicants for EMS licensure (EMD, EMR, EMTB, AEMT, and Paramedic) irrespective of whether they are employed by an ambulance provider.

Please consider the recommendations of the NTSB in 2019 and support House Bill 214.

Sincerely,

Thinh Nguyen, M.D.