

# **GM 8**

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Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRENT ROBINSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

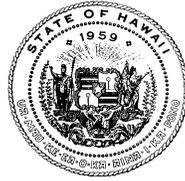
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM8**  
**NOMINEES TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: August 29, 2017 1:30pm Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Air travel and transportation costs to attend meetings.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the appointment of Brent
- 3 Robinson EMT-P, BA to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC).
- 4
- 5 Mr. Robinson received his Basic Emergency Medical Technician and Mobile Intensive Care
- 6 Technician (paramedic) training from the University of Hawaii's Kapiolani Community College.
- 7 He completed his BA degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Disaster Preparedness
- 8 and Emergency Management from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. He is a practicing
- 9 paramedic for Honolulu City and County EMS and American Medical Response. In addition he
- 10 is a critical care flight paramedic for AMR. Mr. Robinson volunteers his time to the Hawaii
- 11 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) serving as a paramedic. In addition he is a Lecturer and
- 12 Skills examiner for Kapiolani Community College. He brings over ten years of clinical and teaching
- 13 experience to EMSAC.
- 14
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

August 23, 2017

Dear Senator Baker,

Re: Nomination of Brent Robinson, MICT, to the State of Hawai'i Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

I first became acquainted with Brent Robinson during his internship to become a paramedic some 8-plus years ago. From that time on I have become more and more impressed by his character, intelligence, aptitude and level of maturity despite his relative youth. Since then he has earned his B.A. in Public Administration at UH-West O'ahu while working full-time as a ground and flight paramedic for American Medical Response-Hawai'i and part-time for the City and County of Honolulu's Emergency Medical Services Division. He is also a member of Hawai'i's Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT-HI) and is active in helping evaluate EMT and MICT students attending the EMS training program at Kapi'olani Community College.

Brent's motivation and degree of commitment to EMS has earned him the respect of not only his peers but also his supervisors, who seek him out for ideas on how to improve operations and for strategies on how to bring these concepts to reality. He is not someone who just talks; he is a person who takes action. He has a logical and organized mind that is capable of taking into account the myriad human and situational factors that are a continual challenge in providing good emergency medical care.

Brent's experience as both a ground and air ambulance paramedic, in federal disaster response, in EMS education and his studies in public administration have helped develop him into a well-rounded individual with nearly limitless potential. He is an extremely competent, caring and motivated young man whose dedication towards improving EMS has inspired him to become an advocate for positive change in a field that has unfortunately too often been overshadowed by the more visible public safety professions like police and fire. Brent is capable of bringing a real-life perspective and commonsense ideas to the EMSAC table, and I hope for the sake of our struggling profession that he will be allowed to do so.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Belinda C.W. Lee, MICT, RN, MPH  
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**Brent Robinson**

8/25/2017

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

Being on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) allows me to better connect with the “decision makers” throughout the entire state, to act in the sense of a liaison for the community. In turn, this allows me to make a direct and indirect contribution to the forward momentum of the EMS system of Hawaii.

During the last EMSAC meeting as the interim Honolulu member I had the privilege of being able to sit at the table with the other EMSAC members along with other EMS stakeholders filling the outskirts of the conference room. As I glanced around I noticed that I was one of the younger ones, if not the youngest person in the room. Many present had years (25+) of experience in EMS and most of them served in some type of administrative role within their respective organizations. I have the utmost respect for these ones but at the same time I feel that it is the “next generation”, my generation that needs to step up to the plate now, not to take away from the ones who have truly setup and preserved the foundation of EMS in Hawaii, but to begin the transition to build upon and fortify EMS here in Hawaii.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

As a member of EMSAC I perceive that one of the major roles and responsibilities is to be a voice for the EMS community. The word “community” is multi-faceted as it can refer to those that utilize EMS (the consumers/patients; community in general), those who work closely with EMS (hospitals, fire departments, police departments, etc.), and those who are employed by the various EMS agencies across the State. If there are concerns or positive things that affect EMS then as a member I can bring it to the table and ensure that they are being addressed and taken care of.

3. In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I feel that in order to protect the consumer the EMS system has to provide the best quality of service that we can possibly give them. If there are deficiencies in a particular area then these needs to be addressed and a solution implemented.

4. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

As a “younger” member and one still working on the “frontline”, not formally working in an administrative capacity I feel that I’m qualified to truly give a representation of those still working in the field and not just on a desk. I can give a fresh outlook/perspective that others on the board may not necessarily have.

I consider myself to be well-rounded in the EMS world as I have over 10 years of experience ranging from 911 pre-hospital ambulance service, private inter-facility transport, critical care, fixed-wing Medevac service, and also providing education at the college level. I can pull my experiences from working in the public and private EMS sectors which allows me to present a broader view than most members being employed by just one or the other.

Through my educational background in Public Administration and my time served as a Union Executive board member I believe that these contributes for my roles and responsibilities enabling me to ask the right questions, propose solutions, and prepare me to be in that “hot seat” at times.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I have nothing specific in mind at this time because there are a wide array of issues that needs to be addressed and accomplished. However, what I hope to accomplish is that I can collaboratively work with the board to continue to move forward the current issues at bay. If they are important and get stalled then I need to continue to push and find alternative means to get it moving again.

6. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

*Positivity.* This is the fuel to getting anything in life done because as Winston Churchill once said “the positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible.” This fuel is the driving momentum to overcoming any deficiencies, this is the start of a solution where all may seem grim but if you have a positive vision in mind and work towards it can be done.

*Resiliency.* Success may not always occur on the first try. I’m a big believer that if you fail it is only temporary. As the old adage goes “if first you don't succeed try try again” and then I’d like to add in try some more but maybe try a different method or angle this time until you get it.

*Pono.* More than just a word that is commonly use to refer as being righteous I take it more seriously in the sense that it is a guiding principle in my life. To strive to do things that are morally and ethically upright, my inward duty to serve and to guide, and to be true to my self and thers.

7. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

The experience I gained serving as Union Executive Board member will be beneficial for me as an EMSAC board member. In the past I was called on to represent certain EMS workers in some challenges that they had with their respective employer. In my dealings with this particular administration/organization I was able to solve problems and come to a compromise for both parties (employee and employers) in a way the was constructive rather than destructive and that fostered respect for all involved. I know that being on the EMSAC board I wont agree with everything that is discussed but at least I know that I can deal with it in the proper way by not disregarding others feelings, thoughts, and/or opinions.

8. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

Like everyone else on the EMSAC board we all have some connection to an EMS organization that maybe perceived as a conflict of interest because the State contracts to these various agencies. So with that being said it puts everyone else on the EMSAC board in the "same boat". In my particular case the perceived conflict of interest could be associated with being employed for private ambulance provider American Medical Response and the City and County of Honolulu EMS. As long as I fully disclose these conflicts and ensure that I'm not getting any special treatment or kickbacks from the State the conflicts of interest is at a minimum. If things get questioned I need to be completely honest and transparent.