
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Ige, Chair

February 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Supporting SB 1254: Relating to Emergency Medical Care

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1254, which appropriates funds to increase the availability of emergency medical services and ambulance services in Ewa Beach.

Access to emergency medical services and ambulance services was severely reduced for the residents of Ewa Beach when Hawaii Medical Center – West closed a little more than a year ago. Ambulances must now take patients considerable distances to emergency rooms elsewhere on Oahu. The ability to provide acceptable levels of emergency medical services to the residents of Ewa Beach has been threatened. This bill will expand emergency medical services and ambulance services in the Ewa Beach community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1254.