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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 27, 2017

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee Ways and Means

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 28, 2017; OFFERING COMMENTS ON HB 1410 HD 2, SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure. This bill repeals the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund and appropriates an equal amount of general funds to the Department of Health for emergency medical services.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I appreciate the bill's recent amendment deleting the provisions that would unfairly shift ambulance services to the counties, and the suggestion that TAT funds should be tapped to pay for these services.

I support the current relationship and partnership the counties have with the state Emergency Management System, which has worked well and should be maintained. Under this structure, ambulance services fall under the Department of Health. The current program should be fully and adequately funded.

Mahalo.

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