



**Emergency Medical Services &  
Injury Prevention System Branch**

**State of Hawaii Department of Health  
Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024<sup>1</sup>  
9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Meeting Minutes**

Recording Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/WJbmJE36KERDcmSaAZFbz4VL8PQjeUc8EOyvuWji4LgVwo0rMZaMWDUC\\_Z4sesQG.MpKkzcl9jzq3INBb](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/WJbmJE36KERDcmSaAZFbz4VL8PQjeUc8EOyvuWji4LgVwo0rMZaMWDUC_Z4sesQG.MpKkzcl9jzq3INBb)

Committee Members Present: Sean Covant, DO; Peter Di Rocco, MD; Kyle Perry, MD; Jack Lewin, MD; Michael Lam; Stacey Oho; Cody Bonilla; Maren Anka; Darren Rosario; Edwin Sniffen rep. Pradip Pant

Committee Members Absent: Jacob Minei; Kenneth Hara; Michael Jones; Max Matias

In-Person - Leahi Hospital, Sinclair Building, Hale Na Auao conference room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. 3675 Kilauea Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816.

- I. **5:24 Call to Order/Roll Call** – 9:44am called to order by Alvin C. Bronstein, MD, FACEP, EMSIPSB Chief,
- II. **6:27 Approval of 11/20/23 Meeting Minutes (VOTING ITEM)** – Deferred
- III. **6:50 Deputy Director Morikawa introduced the new applicants for consumer seats on the neighboring islands** – Harold Diaz, International Representative with the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from Kauai, and Jennifer Chen, Director of Tourism Research at the Hawaii Tourism Authority for the Oahu consumer seat.
- IV. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) Members
  - A. **14:49 Announced current vacant positions in the EMSAC Board** – Physician (1): Statewide, Consumers (3): Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, Allied Health (2): Maui, Kauai. EMSAC Chair – appointed by board action
  - B. **15:30 Maren Anka** is currently serves as the Allied Health representative for Maui; however, she should transition to the MICT Maui position.
  - C. **17:13 Jeffrey Later** is interested in the Allied Health position for Maui and is the Trauma Program Manager for Maui
  - D. All hybrid meetings for future meetings
  - E. **19:29 Sunshine Laws** – It was emphasized that all current and incoming board members were expected to complete both parts of the OIP Sunshine Law Basic Training, followed by the associated quiz. Subsequently, they were to provide confirmation of a passing score of 70% or higher to Celeste, potentially requiring a screenshot as proof of certification.
- V. Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB) - Alvin C. Bronstein, MD, FACEP, EMSIPSB Chief
  - A. **20:40 Branch updates** – Dr. Alvin C. Bronstein provided updates regarding branch initiatives that include revising the Hawaii Administrative Rules related to EMS (HRS 11-72-31.5), soliciting recommendations for position of

additional ambulances on all islands, and working on the Governor's Aeromedical Backup

B. **23:23 Hawaii Administrative Interim Rules Discussion** – The interim rules addressed the treatment and transport to alternative destinations, outlining the criteria for qualifying as such. Additionally, community paramedicine was explored, initially focusing on enhancing emergency clinics in Hawaii before extending to neighboring islands. Various aspects, including alternate destinations, treated-not-transported patients, billing rates concerning Medicare and Medicaid, were thoroughly examined. As of June 30, 2023, the interim rules have expired, necessitating their reinstatement through a public hearing process. It was also reported that the Federal ET3 program was closed. Any proposed system and rates outlined in these rules must gain approval from EMSAC to become official. Board members were encouraged to review the rules, offer their opinions, and pose any pertinent questions.

C. EMS Standing Orders Update

1. **55:58 Report on changes of prehospital protocols for EMS across the State** – Updates on the EMS standing orders were discussed, including the release of a new version with instructions for implementation and consideration for a more telegraphic format through the EMS app. The EMS medical directors are continuing to review the Standing Orders and provided updates from counties on their implementation progress. Hawaii County is preparing for the implementation of standing orders and additional protocols, while Honolulu City and County are also in the process, expecting to implement by March 1 after graduating 30 new EMTs. Maui has printed their standing orders on waterproof paper.

2. **1:18:19 Possible Standing Orders of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)** – The EMS medical directors have had discussions about the possibility for Standing Orders for EMTs and the possibility of forming a “Permitted Interactive Group” (P.I.G.) for facilitated discussions on this topic. EMS medical directors are tasked with convening before the next EMSAC meeting to propose guidelines for EMTs.

D. 911 Ground Ambulance Maui & Kauai Update

1. **1:21:20 Requests for Information (RFIs)** – RFIs for Maui and Kauai were completed on December 11th and December 13th, 2023, with recorded public hearings available for viewing. The process of gathering information to incorporate into the actual Request for Proposals (RFPs) is currently underway.
  2. **1:21:41 New Request for Maui & Kauai** – Plans were announced to issue the RFP no later than the second quarter of 2024, with hopes of releasing it sooner. Additionally, the aeromedical component/Medivac services will be separated from ground ambulance services.
  3. **1:25:50 Agenda Item** – An agenda item for the next EMSAC meeting was decided and will focus on addressing specific needs, concerns, and recommendations for each county regarding services.
- E. **1:27:25 2023 Ambulance Vehicle Licensing** – Completed
- F. **1:27:35 EMS for Children (EMSC) 2024** – Kristy Luke, EMSC Program Manager, presented a concise update on the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. One of the objectives for 2024 is to establish a standard for pediatrics, aiming to define what it means for emergency medical services to be "pediatric ready." The EMSC grant award for the program amounts to \$174,000.
- G. Injury Prevention Updates & Events – Celeste Toyofuku provided an update on injury prevention efforts.
1. **1:28:45** – The launch of the Hawaii Emergency Medical Services Information System (HEMSIS) newsletter for EMS providers was announced, with the first quarterly issue released in December 2023. Counties were encouraged to submit updates, feel-good stories, and employee features for future editions.
  2. **1:29:25** – Funding from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) through the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation was secured for the Health Data Exchange, facilitating the linkage of prehospital and hospital information to enhance quality assurance

and feedback for improved patient care system wide. The NHTSA funding amounts to \$550,000 annually for two years.

3. **1:29:55** – Stan Micheals, Senior Falls Prevention Specialist, announced his retirement.

VI. **1:34:35 Quality Assessment and Assurance** – Dr. Bronstein requested input from EMSAC members regarding potential quality indicators. He requested that any suggestions be sent directly to him for consideration. Libby Char brought up wanted to track EMS response to cardiac arrest whether the usage of a particular device for cardiac arrest patients and inquired about existing protocols. Discussions began regarding the performance of EMS responses in such cases. Jack Lewin brought attention to the tracking of insured versus uninsured patients as a topic for consideration.

VII. Department / Committee Updates

A. **1:42:31 Trauma & Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council** – Matt Wells, RN, was absent. Dr. Bronstein delivered a brief report, noting the absence of a trauma chair for HTAC. Castle was identified as a Level 3 trauma center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Additionally, Maui underwent ACS verification for Level 2 trauma center status, although the results have yet to be received, and it currently remains classified as a Level 3 center.

B. **1:43:45 Air Medical Committee Report** – Terrance Jones, MD, FACEP provides reports on the Maui Helicopter Air Ambulance Utilization and Molokai runway construction project.

1. **1:43:55 Maui Helicopter Air Ambulance Utilization** – Concerns have been raised by Maui, Molokai, and Lanai regarding the timely transportation of critically ill patients off the islands, particularly exacerbated by runway issues and nighttime transport challenges. Efforts are underway to address these concerns, including the utilization of helicopter ambulance services and implementing backup systems for Hawaii Life Flight helicopters in Kona. Construction delays on Molokai have impacted plans for infrastructure improvement, with resurfacing work at Kona airport similarly postponed until the fall. However, measures are in place to maintain airport operations and

facilitate emergency medical transports, with ongoing communication and coordination with relevant stakeholders.

2. **1:47:25 Molokai construction Project** – The construction project on Molokai has faced repeated delays due to weather conditions and logistical challenges. Plans involve paving at night to maintain access during Mokulele service hours and fixed-wing air ambulance operations during both daytime and nighttime. Similar issues are being experienced at Kona airport, with resurfacing scheduled for the fall. Despite ongoing taxiway work at night, the runway remains available. However, sealing cracks and resurfacing have been postponed to February 5th. Daily monitoring of FAA advisories ensures airport operations remain informed. Communication efforts with Molokai hospital, including Dr. Bronstein and Dr. Char, have been ongoing. Contingency plans entail utilizing both Hawaii Life Flight and Medivac helicopters for nighttime transport in the absence of fixed-wing access, with the process expected to last three weeks. Fixed-wing aircraft can still land during the day.

#### C. EMS Medical Directors and County Provider Reports

1. **1:50:33 Hawaii** – Dr. Terrance Jones introduced a new protocol concerning the administration of blood products during interfacility transfers. It is being formalized the county level initially, with the possibility of statewide expansion as necessary.
2. **1:52:03 Kauai** – Dr. Eric Vaughan, MD announced that updates on Standing Orders will be distributed during the base station meeting scheduled for tomorrow.
3. **1:52:27 Maui** – Dr. Elizabeth Char, MD is focused on getting up to speed on the operational matters and ongoing issues, including the rotor issue in Maui.
4. **1:52:45 Oahu** – Dr. Ron Kuroda, MD addressed the growing volume of EMS calls on Oahu, emphasizing the need to ensure adequate ambulance availability for 911 responses. Recent pressures include increased offload times for ambulances, both locally and nationally. Efforts are underway to maintain response times within accustomed standards, with collaboration between EMS and hospitals to optimize the emergency medicine system. Concerns persist

regarding patient offload times and strategies to mitigate these pressures are being explored. The City & County of Honolulu EMS added a fourth district.

VIII. **1:53:49 Next Meeting** – Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 9:30 AM

IX. **2:01:30 Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned 11:40 AM