



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

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, July 17, 2024
TIME: 9:30 A.M.
PLACE: DOH Conference Room at Kinau Hale
1250 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 ¹ & Online via Zoom

Recording Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/sb36A6CO2iO1-PcQlu97OMcf2CpXHmFtz9eet9Bped_JRXOPHu-btkqB9m7jl6XI2API5lqmlotRYDTU.Plz86z67CgBzLw1v?canPlayFromShare=true&from=my_recording&startTime=1721245331000&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FbYZli7kRTdge20CJoqNTEFCc8XZKEMLCCoUmGIdIZCy07H84RZ5OARKy5oQsqw5o.j62Dp3tPSSnkVb_F%3FstartTime%3D1721245331000

Committee Members Present: Thinh Nguyen, MD; Cecilia Wang, MD; Ann Young, MD; Michael Lam; Stacey Oho; Maren Anka; Marilyn Matsunaga; Darren Rosario; Harold Dias, Max Matias; John (Jack) Lewin, MD; Edwin Sniffen rep. Pradip Pant

Committee Member Absent: Patrick Loeffler, MD; Kyle Perry, MD; Major General Kenneth Hara rep. Don Aweau

Staff Present: Robert Lau; Brandon Loi

Guests Present: Matt Wells; Tiffany Lightfoot; Charlene Roaquin; Jeannette Kojiane; Mark Leggett; William "Speedy" Bailey; Jacob Mayer; Elizabeth Char, MD; Dede Mamiya; Zoom Members

- I. **0:50 Call to Order/Roll Call** – 9:43 A.M. called to order by Debbie Kim Morikawa, DOH Deputy Director
- II. **Approval of 04/17/24 Meeting Minutes (VOTING ITEM)** – Skipped
- III. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) Members
 - A. **2:19 Orientation for New Members** – Orientation packet from Robert and Brandon distributed out. The orientation packet provides background on the Emergency Medical Services Injury Prevention Systems Branch and EMSAC's mission and statutory role. It emphasizes the importance of EMSAC members' input to understand the needs of the emergency medical services system, offering a comprehensive picture beyond the office's limited perspective, especially regarding on-the-ground and community happenings.
 - B. **8:10 Overview of the statewide EMS system** – Robert Lau provided an overview of EMSIPSB, highlighting its statewide support for emergency medical services across all four counties, with specific contracts in Kauai and Maui. The primary functions include administrative rules, standing orders, and ambulance licensing. EMSIPSB also promotes, evaluates, and identifies funding for EMS, trauma, and injury prevention programs.
 - C. **9:07 Reminder for Sunshine Law Trainings and Quiz** – All members were reminded to complete their Sunshine Law training available on the Hawaii State Ethics Commission website.
 - D. **9:35 Recommendations of Individuals for Vacant EMSAC Member Seats** – Recommendations for filling vacant EMSAC member seats were discussed. Vacancies include positions for a paramedic, firefighter, consumer, and allied health representatives. It was mentioned that a paramedic and a firefighter who have submitted applications. Members are encouraged to reach out to potential candidates, including hospital staff, non-EMS fire or ocean safety personnel, and retired industry professionals. Interested individuals should inform Brandon of their interest and application submission to ensure proper follow-up.
 - E. **11:25 Nomination and Selection of EMSAC Chair (VOTING ITEM)** – Motion to appoint Marilyn Matsunaga as EMSAC Chair was made by Jack Lewin, MD and

seconded by Cecilia Wang, MD with voting members unanimously supporting.

IV. Old Business

A. 14:20 Report on Rules for Adoption of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Section 11-72-31.5 (treat/no transport, and community paramedic visits)

– Presented by Dede Mamiya, the 2019 legislation authorized rules for charging fees for Treatment-No-Transport (TNT) and alternative destinations, which led to interim rules in 2020. The committee was informed of the complexities have increased, particularly due to the scrapping of the CMS ET3 pilot project, impacting Medicare reimbursement. This lack of Medicare reimbursement could negatively affect public perception and create challenges for charging fees. Further research and stakeholder engagement, especially with Medicaid and private insurers, are required to determine reimbursement details and explore alternative destinations and community paramedicine models. The department will continue to work on these issues to address the complexities involved.

B. 24:58 Update on status of wait times for patients transferred from ambulance to emergency rooms

– The discussion on patient wait times, or "wall times," revealed significant improvements reported by City EMS. However, variations are expected, with peak times in January and February due to flu season. It was brought up that this issue raised by Senator Joy San Buenaventura, might be better addressed outside of EMSAC due to the Sunshine Law's constraints. Possible solutions include community-driven approaches or forming new committees. Diversion rates were inquired, and it was emphasized that the root problem lies within the broader healthcare system, including hospital capacity and patient flow, rather than solely with EMS. While EMSAC should remain aware of these issues, a systemic approach involving multiple stakeholders is necessary.

C. 29:07 Informational Announcement: Hawaii Among Four States

Awarded Significant CMS Head Grant – The state recently received a \$12 million Head Grant, which, while not directly targeting EMS, is expected to positively impact diversion times by incentivizing hospitals to provide community placement options. This grant focuses on primary care,

behavioral health, and social determinants, aims to improve acute care financing and could significantly affect EMS, especially in rural areas. Members inquired about the grant's potential use for paramedicine, noting that community paramedicine models might benefit from such funding. The grant provides \$12 million over five years for administration, data acquisition, and analytics, with up to \$500 million available over ten years for broader healthcare services starting in 2027.

D. 34:16 Identification of Permitted Interaction Group Members to investigate, identify, and report on County Specific EMS Issues

(VOTING ITEM) – The committee discussed the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate, identify, and report on county-specific EMS issues. This group allows discussions without sunshine law constraints and can have fewer than 11 members, with no quorum required. Maren Anka will lead, with Michael Lam and Dr. Thinh Nguyen also participating. Representatives from Kauai, including Crystal Bargayo and Steve Drapkin, will join. The PIG will report its findings to the committee, with the report becoming part of the official minutes. This one-time initiative cannot add new issues or expand its scope after reporting. The motion to form the PIG, made by Dr. Thinh Nguyen and seconded by Marilyn Matsunaga, was approved unanimously.

V. New Business

A. 52:47 Overview about POLST and Updates Regarding POLST Forms –

Presented by Dr. Fischberg and Jeannette Koiwane, the update on the POST form highlighted recent changes designed to simplify its use. POLST (Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) is a medical order for seriously ill individuals that guides first responders in emergency situations. The updated POST form now features clearer language and improved organization, including visual symbols to aid quick identification. These revisions aim to enhance clarity and ease of use, ensuring that individuals' treatment preferences are accurately communicated and respected.

B. Announcements

1) **1:26:47 Maui and Kauai 911 Ground Ambulance Contract Award** – The contract was awarded to American Medical Response (A.M.R.)

- 2) **1:27:05 Maui Aeromedical Ambulance Service Contract Award** – The contract was awarded to Redwood Empire Air Care Helicopter (R.E.A.C.H.)
- 3) **1:27:40 Status of Branch Chief Vacancy** – The Branch Chief position is being restructured to a non-physician branch manager role. This change aims to simplify recruitment and management challenges. Recruitment for the current vacancy cannot proceed until the position description is updated and budgeted.

C. Budget Update

- 1) **1:28:44 Informational Briefing on Branch's unchanged budget** – No changes to the branch's budget.
- 2) **1:29:30 Informational Briefing on Cost of In-Person Meetings** – The cost for the nine neighbor island members to travel to Oahu for in-person meetings is \$2,700 and will be requested to be added to the budget. Currently, the budget covers one meeting, but a request will be made to fund at least two in-person meetings.
- 3) **1:32:50 Update on paramedic stipend funding** – The paramedic stipend provides up to \$2,000 per EMT for certification training and is under review. It supports travel costs for neighbor island training and will soon be integrated into the budgets for Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island. Discussions are underway to revise the program to potentially cover local training on neighbor islands, aiming to better meet EMT needs.

D. Legislative Update

- 1) **1:35:08 Recap of bills related to EMS during last legislative session** – Highlighting two bills: SB3126, concerning helicopter funding, which did not pass and will not be revived for the next session, and SB791, which provided biennial funding for Molokai's ambulance services but did not secure ongoing support. Future attention is needed to address the long-term funding issues for Molokai.
- 2) **1:37:50 Request to lower quorum requirement for EMSAC meetings** – Future legislation aims to lower the quorum requirement from 11 members for meetings, which is currently challenging given the 20 mandated members. The proposal seeks to make it easier to hold meetings without meeting the

full quorum. Support from members may be needed to advance this bill and address the ongoing quorum issues.

- 3) **1:38:40 Solicitation for any bill requests for consideration by the Branch**
– Members are encouraged to suggest potential bills for the next legislative session.

VI. Department / Committee Updates

A. **1:39:06 Trauma & Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council** – Report submitted, no verbal report.

B. **1:39:25 Air Medical Committee Report** – Terrance Jones, MD provided a report for the Aeromedical Committee. In May and June, Maui's air medical helicopter transported 7 patients each month, primarily from Hana due to its remote location. The new helicopter contract will include accommodations for bariatric patients. Challenges with the current platform include high operational costs and a billing system that excludes the Department of Health. The fire department lacks the funds to support the platform as a standalone or hybrid service. Alternative funding and operational options are being explored, including potential partnerships with hospitals or foundations.

VII. **1:44:15 Next Meeting** – Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9:30 AM

VIII. **1:45:59 Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned 11:28 AM