



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

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: 16 July 2025  
TIME: 9:30 A.M.  
PLACE: State of Hawaii Department of Health, Kinau Hale, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom  
1250 Punchbowl St. Honolulu HI 96813 / & Online via Teams

Recording Link: N/A

Committee Members Present: Maren Anka; Micheal Lam; John “Jack” Lewin, MD; Patrick Loeffler, MD; Kyle Perry, MD; Adjutant General Stephan Logan; Marilyn Matsunaga; Thinh Nguyen, MD; Cy O’Brien; Pradip R. Pant; and Jacob Pekelo.

Committee Member Absent: Cecilia Wang, MD; Ann Young, MD; and Kenneth Faria

Staff Present: Meiko Arai; Elizabeth “Libby” Char, MD; Momoko Chiba; Andrea Chow; Dan Galanis, PhD; Carol Go; Garrett Hall; Jessamy Hornor; Debbie Kim Morikawa; Ronald Kuroda, MD; Robert Lau; Deborah Lau; Kristy Luke; Dwayne Lopes; Michele Nishimoto; Toni Naone; Jasmine Okita; Shantra Olsen-Lahui; Joseph Puente; Eric Vaughan, MD; and Zerui Renee Yu.

Guests Present: Tiffany Allen; Mona Arcinas; William “Speedy” Bailey; Cody Bonilla; Nancy Buffett; Dory Clisham; Mark Davidson; John Desfor; Nancy Dich; Veronica Fuentes; Tina Hamayasu; Mathew Kanemitsu; Brent Lopez; Amy Ma; Cara McCoy; Jacob Mayer; Aaron Mitchell; Elijah Pung; Charlene Roaquin; John Rosati; Jason Sanchez; Kualii Atkins Taetum; Craig Thomas; Wendi Wagner; Jenny Wilson; unidentified online audience members.

**I. 9:33 AM Call to Order/Roll Call** - called to order by Marilyn Matsunaga, Chair of the Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

**II. 9:36 AM Approval of 04/16/25 Meeting Minutes (VOTING ITEM)**

Ms. Matsunaga called for a vote to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024, meeting. Dr. Patrick Loeffler, physician member of EMSAC, moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Lam, EMSAC member representing the Hawai'i Fire Department.

There was no discussion or opposition. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) Members**

**A. 9:37 AM Sunshine Law and Ethics Training**

Ms. Matsunaga reminded EMSAC members to complete the required Sunshine Law and State Ethics Commission trainings.

**B. 9:37 AM Recommendations of Individuals for Vacant EMSAC Member Positions**

Members were reminded that several EMSAC member positions remain vacant. Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii County Consumer, and others. Committee members were encouraged to recommend qualified individuals. Interested candidates may submit applications to the Governor's Office.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. 9:38 AM Medicom: Radios for Maui, Kauai, and Big Island County**

Robert Lau, Data Manager at the Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch (EMSIPSB) discussed the status of radios for Maui, Hawaii, and the Big Island, mentioning that 8 radios were dropped off in Kauai and the extra radios are being decommissioned and will be sent to Maui.

**B. 9:39 AM Inter-Facility Transports & Air Medical Data**

Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with Hawaii Life Flight is still outstanding, and once it is completed, EMSIPSB will be able to present the data.

**V. New Business**

**A. 9:40 AM University Of Hawai'i Rural Health Research & Policy Center (RHRPC)  
"The Impacts of Transportation and Travel Access on Rural Health in Hawai'i"**

**- John Desfor, MPH**

John Desfor and Amy Ma from the University of Hawaii Rural Health Research and Policy Center presented their report on the impacts of transportation and travel access on rural health in Hawaii, discussing key themes such as non-emergency medical transportation, EMS, insurance coverage, and maternal fetal health.

- 1) **Policy Options for EMS:** Mr. Desfor discussed five policy options related to EMS, including expanding air ambulance services, incentivizing new market entrants for interfacility transports, establishing a centralized emergency and trauma care communication system, supporting ground ambulance expansion and rapid response vehicles, and expanding community paramedic and outreach programs.
- 2) **Air Ambulance Expansion:** Mr. Desfor proposed expanding and supporting air ambulance services in Hawaii, emphasizing the need to get the right patient to the right place at the right time efficiently.
- 3) **New Market Entrants:** Mr. Desfor suggested incentivizing new market entrants for interfacility transports and aeromedical services to meet the growing demand in rural areas, improving patient transfer efficiency.
- 4) **Centralized Communication:** Mr. Desfor recommended establishing a centralized emergency and trauma care communication system to streamline dispatch and triage, integrating hospital dashboards and air medical transport systems for better coordination.
- 5) **Ground Ambulance Expansion:** Mr. Desfor discussed supporting ground ambulance expansion and rapid response vehicles, proposing a comprehensive needs assessment to understand current EMS coverage and investing in additional ground ambulances and rapid response vehicles.
- 6) **Community Paramedic Programs:** Mr. Desfor advocated for expanding community paramedic and outreach programs, utilizing paramedics for wellness checks and follow-ups to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and 911 calls.
- 7) **Certificate of Need Requirement:** Mr. Desfor and committee discussed the

certificate of need requirement for EMS interfacility transports, emphasizing the need to incentivize new market entrants to meet the growing demand for EMS services in rural areas.

#### **B. 10:01 Hawaii Community College: EMT Program Request**

Garrett Hall, Acting Branch Chief of EMSIPSB and State Trauma Program Manager discussed the request from Hawaii Community College to establish an EMT transport program within their fire science program, and the need to address the existing MOA between the three chancellors and the branch.

- 1) **MOA Discussion:** Mr. Hall explained the need to address the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the three chancellors and the branch, ensuring that the new program aligns with the agreed-upon educational standards.
- 2) **Standing Orders:** Max Matias, Fire Chief of Kona Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and other participants discussed the lack of standing orders for EMTs, emphasizing the need for clear protocols and guidelines for EMT practice in Hawaii.

#### **C. 10:17 AM State of Hawaii Band and Scan: Pulsara Pilots**

Mr. Hall and Cara McCoy, Pulsara Representative for Hawaii, introduced the Band and Scan pilot initiative, aiming to have every patient transported by an ambulance banded by the end of December, with the goal of improving patient tracking and coordination.

- 1) **Initiative Introduction:** Mr. Hall and Ms. McCoy introduced the Band and Scan pilot initiative, aiming to have every patient transported by an ambulance banded by the end of December to improve patient tracking and coordination.
- 2) **Implementation Plan:** Mr. Hall explained the implementation plan, which includes distributing bands to all responding agencies and hospitals and ensuring that every patient is banded and scanned during transport.
- 3) **Tracking Benefits:** Mr. Hall highlighted the benefits of the initiative, such as improved patient tracking during large-scale incidents and better coordination

across the continuum of care.

## **VI. 1030 AM EMS & Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB) Report**

### **A. EMS Updates/Reports**

Mr. Hall and Dan Galanis, PhD, Epidemiologist from EMSIPSB, presented the EMS key performance indicators scorecard, highlighting response times, EMS scene to hospital times, and invasive airway documentation, with a focus on improving data quality and performance.

- 1) **Scorecard Presentation:** Mr. Hall and Dr. Galanis presented the EMS key performance indicators (KPI) scorecard, which includes metrics such as response times, EMS scene to hospital times, and invasive airway documentation.
- 2) **Response Times:** Mr. Hall and Dr. Galanis discussed the response times, with a national benchmark of less than 11 minutes, and highlighted the performance of different counties in meeting this benchmark.
- 3) **Scene to Hospital Times:** Mr. Hall and Dr. Galanis reviewed the EMS scene to hospital times, with a benchmark of less than 25 minutes, and discussed the performance of various counties in achieving this goal.
- 4) **Airway Documentation:** Mr. Hall and Dr. Galanis emphasized the importance of documenting invasive airway procedures, noting that Hawaii Fire Department performed exceptionally well in this area, with high compliance rates.

**B. Ambulance Licensing:** Dr. Hall discussed the new licensing packet for air and ground ambulances, including initial and annual license fees and inspection fees, and the process for requesting annual inspections.

- 1) **Licensing Packet:** Dr. Hall introduced the new licensing packet for air and ground ambulances, which includes initial and annual license fees and inspection fees to ensure compliance and safety standards.
- 2) **Inspection Process:** Dr. Hall explained the process for requesting annual inspections, which will be done online, and emphasized the importance of scheduling inspections in advance to avoid delays.

- 3) **Fee Structure:** Mr. Hall discussed the fee structure for non-911 air and ground ambulances, highlighting the need to cover the costs of maintaining data systems and ensuring quality documentation.

**C. EMS Performance Improvement and Quality Assurance:** Mr. Hall introduced the air medical patient care event reporting tool and the plan for after-action reviews for mass casualty incidents, as well as the state EMS and trauma performance improvement and patient safety plan.

**D. Branch Goals for 2026:** Mr. Hall outlined the branch's three main goals for 2026: modernizing statutes to support emergency medical systems of care, establishing a state emergency coordination center, and updating regulatory processes for billing.

**E. 11:14 AM Medical Directors & Air Medical Report**

Air traffic with REACH was lower over the past month.

- 1) Hana continues to be a high-utilization area for transfers to Maui Memorial.
- 2) Introduction of a single-engine helicopter based on Oahu expected to assist with intra-island transfers.

**VII. 10:57 AM Agency Report Highlights**

Mr. Hall noted that the packet is extensive and will not be read in full during the meeting. He emphasized that the packet has been posted and is available for review.

- Mr. Hall commended Hawaii Fire for their outstanding performance. He noted that for the first quarter, Hawaii Fire ranked in the top decile nationally, with approximately 86% compliance year-to-date, well above both the state average and national median.

**VIII. 11:07 AM Announcements**

**A. Upcoming Trauma Conference:** Mr. Hall announced the upcoming trauma conference on August 21st at Queens, which will focus on strategic planning for trauma and EMS in the state.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Next meeting confirmed for October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

*Meeting was adjourned at 11:16AM HST.*

DRAFT