

# Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council



**HAWAII TRAUMA ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**State Trauma Program**  
**Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch**  
**Hawaii State Department of Health**

Friday, May 09, 2025  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Virtual Meeting**

## **MEETING MINTUES**

**Date:** 05/09/25

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Virtual Meeting, ZOOM Recorded Meeting

- **Chair:** Dr. Caesar Ursic, MD (Chair, Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council)
- **Vice Chair:** Matt Wells, MBA, RN, BSN, TCRN (Vice Chair, Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council)

## **Welcome**

**9:00 AM – Welcome, Opening Remarks, Voting Member Introductions, Quorum – Matt Wells**

- Matt Wells, Vice Chair of HTAC, welcomed attendees to the Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council (HTAC) meeting on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Mr. Wells gave a welcome message recognizing Nurse's Week and Hospital Week and informed Dr. Ursic would be absent; Matt and Garrett Hall, Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch (EMSIPSB) Acting Brach Chief would be leading the meeting.
- Mr. Hall reviewed the public disclosure and Sunshine Law requirements, emphasizing transparency and accessibility of meeting records, including closed captioning and official transcripts.

- Meeting follows new ad hoc committee operational procedures under the State of Hawaii Department of Health. Draft procedures are under review and will be voted on at a future meeting.
  - Explanation of potential executive sessions per Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding confidential trauma case reviews was provided, with no executive session planned today.
  - No written testimony received before the meeting; oral public testimony welcomed after each agenda item. Guidelines for testimony and decorum outlined.  
Garrett emphasized agenda order will be at chair's discretion; the meeting agenda is publicly posted.
- Mr. Wells noted voting membership rules are still being finalized; quorum requires 7 voting members as per draft operating procedures.

**9:06 AM – Establish Quorum (per HTAC Charter this requires 7 voting members) – Matt Wells**

**Members**

Marilyn Matsunaga, Mona Arcinas, Korey Chock, April Diguez, Malia Eischen (MD), Howard Wong (MD), Jeffery Later, Jill Slade, Audra Roulet, Wendi Wagner, Alissa Lo, Darshe Mendoza, and Kimberley Flesch – 13 Members

**Attendees**

Alissa Lo, Andrea Chow, Andrew Yonemura, April Dieguez, Brent Lopez, Cesar Ursic, Chris Honda, Candace Lahm, Casey Herrforth, Chelsea Simon, Chris Montero, Christiana Bertocchi, Dan Galanis, Danny, Darshe Mendoza, DClisham, Debbie Kim Morikawa, Deborah Lau, Douglas Asano, Devin Puapong, Dwayne K. Lopez, Dwiegand, Elijah Pung, Eric Lau, Garrett Hall, Genia Taitano, Howard Wong, Michelle Morua, Jacob Mayer, Jasmine Okita, Jason Lopez, Jeff Later, Jen Shinde, Korey Chock, Kimberley Flesch, Kimsy, Kristy Luke, Libby Char, Lisa Dau, Marilyn Matsunaga, Max Matias, Meiko Arai, Michele Tong, Mona Arcinas, N.AhYo, Renee Yu, Ronald Kuroda, Shantra Lahui, Terrence Jones, Tina Miller, Vaughan, Wendi Wanger, Kui Gibson, and Other Zoom Members.

**9:07 AM – Voting Items – Matt Wells**

Mr. Wells mentioned no voting items, confirmed by Mr. Hall based on finalizing Operating Procedures.

**9:37 AM - DOH & EMSIPS Branch Updates – Garrett Hall**

- Legislative EMS Statutes Review & Admin Package:  
Initiative to update EMS statutes underway, collaborating with advisory groups and MSAC. Feedback from national bodies (NHTSA, ACS) highlights the need for modernization, with updated terminology and improvements planned.
- EMS and Trauma Rules Update:  
Process started internally, aiming to finalize within ~2 years. Public and stakeholder input will be sought for rule revisions. Trauma system rules will be developed formally for the first time, targeting completion within 12 months.

- **Branch Website Modernization:**  
Website redesign in progress, including plans for secure user login for sharing clinical guidelines and best practices (an improvement from previous SharePoint limitations).
- **Upcoming Awareness & Events:**  
National Trauma Month activities highlighted, including Trauma Register Professional Day, EMS Week, State Water Safety Day, and trauma survivor recognition. Increased Department of Health social media engagement expected.
- **Hawaiian Islands Trauma Symposium:**  
In partnership with Queens Medical Center, the branch is rebooting this event, with funding support from NHTSA and other sources. Save the date notices forthcoming.
- **Health Data Exchange:**  
Statewide health data exchange system is live.
- **EMS Branch Leadership:**  
Current EMS Branch Chief position open; the current leader serving as acting chief with support from deputy director, asking for patience during transition.

### **Trauma System Updates / Reports**

- Trauma system rules will be formally developed over the next year, a long overdue step aligning with HRS rule-writing processes.
- Trauma system funding requests are being prepared due to increased system demands, such as recent disasters (e.g., Maui fires), and longstanding level funding despite growth in need.
- A memo will be submitted to officially recognize the Straub Burn Center as a trauma system member, increasing demands on the fund.
- National demands like Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) require additional trauma system funding.
- Proposal to establish a Hawaii TQIP collaborative to better align with national best practices.
- Contractual changes will require more active trauma surgeon leadership and system participation.
- Reporting on uncompensated trauma care costs and on-call trauma care will be formalized in contract modifications to comply with statutory requirements and support future funding requests.

### **Trauma System Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

- Proposal to create a joint EMS and trauma system subcommittee to develop public-facing KPIs.
- Goal: Increase transparency and public confidence in trauma system performance and justify public funding.
- Recommendations for workgroup members to be discussed and potentially voted on at the next meeting.

### **Trauma System Plan**

- Possible review of these KPIs in executive sessions to protect sensitive quality data, similar to existing stroke coalition processes.
- Now that the trauma registry is operational, plans to develop statewide performance improvement and patient safety KPIs.
- The trauma system plan requires updating, and input/direction from the Advisory Council

is requested on how to move forward.

### **Trauma Registry Status**

- All trauma centers are now live on the registry—an important milestone despite some implementation challenges.
- Quarterly trauma system dashboards are in development and will be shared with stakeholders soon.
- Customized ACS Level 3 verification reports have been built and can be pushed to individual centers upon request.
- A survey of trauma registry professionals was conducted, with a pending nomination for a registry professional to chair that group. Branch support will continue.

### **Trauma Updates**

- Work ongoing; updated data dictionary draft to be shared for review by August.
- Surveys will seek 80% consensus on data points for inclusion.

### **ESO Registry Challenges and Vendor Credit**

- Ongoing issues with ESO registry system quality and customer support persist, impacting hospitals and staff workload.
- The branch is negotiating with ESO for a credit/refund on current invoices due to product defects and ongoing problems.
- If granted, funds would be reallocated back to trauma centers as compensation for the registry hardships.
- No guarantee yet; branch continues advocacy for affected centers.

### **Feedback & Communication**

- Requests from stakeholders for access to ESO reports and updates on ESO system stand-ups have been acknowledged.
- The branch commits to providing quarterly or monthly summaries of ESO progress but cannot support daily or weekly updates due to staffing capacity.
- Critical updates impacting insights reporting were listed; trauma centers must update reports with new data points to avoid broken reports.
- ESO now requires users to acknowledge these upcoming changes upfront to prevent confusion.
- Update schedule has been shifted to midweek releases to reduce risk of new bugs; recent fixes have sometimes caused new issues such as system locking.
- Daily stand-ups between branch staff and ESO occur to push critical fixes and advocate for timely resolution of problems.
- Key fixes expected by May 27 with a target of 85% completion; urgent hotfixes (e.g., cardiac arrest data errors from HDE imports) are prioritized and handled as soon as possible.
- Branch leadership is actively engaging ESO's CTO and COO to accelerate resolutions and improve support.
- Garrett encouraged submitting tickets and copying branch staff to ensure issues get attention during stand-ups.
- Overall, centers should see improvements and faster resolutions as a result of this approach.

## **10:20 AM – Pulsara Implementation “Band and Scan Project” – Dr. Matt Koenig**

- Matt Koenig, MD, Medical Director of Virtual Care from The Queen's Health Systems gave an update on Pulsara stroke project and potential trauma system applications.
- Paramedics scan barcode on driver's license for positive patient ID, preregistration, and sharing medical info.
- Features include: 1-min audio EMS report, secure messaging, live audio calls, call schedule integration, video telemedicine for stroke triage.
- Goal: reduce unnecessary ambulance bypass to hub hospital, improve load balancing.
- Data highlights:
  - 22 min reduction in door-to-needle time for clot buster at non-Queens hospitals.
  - 87% success rate for video connection.
  - 52% of patients avoided bypass to Queens.
  - Low false-negative rate.
- Statewide registry data shows improved stroke clot buster treatment rates and faster care vs. national average.
- Challenges with double documentation in Pulsara, ESO, Metacom.
- Health Data Exchange (HDE) demo project underway for bidirectional data sharing between ESO and Epic to reduce duplication.
- Dr. Koenig emphasized relevance for trauma system coordination and registry reporting.

### **Barcode Scanning Issues**

- Marilyn Matsunaga, Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) Chair, asked about patients without access to driver's licenses.
  - Dr. Koenig claimed John Doe accounts still possible but rare for stroke; trauma may differ.
- Ms. Matsunaga asked if all state licenses have barcodes.
  - Dr. Koenig confirmed Real ID licenses with gold star have barcode.
- Kili Kanae, Hawaii Fire Department Branch Chief, reported that barcode scanning for Pulsara is unreliable, leading to frequent manual data entry. Dr. Koenig confirmed manual entry is possible if the barcode scan fails.

### **Pulsara Band & Scan Project**

- Garrett Hall explained that the state has purchased Pulsara access for hospitals. The initiative requires all EMS and fire agencies to band and scan every patient to build consistent practice.
- Patient info entry is optional; only banding and scanning are mandatory. This supports patient tracking during multi-patient or mass casualty incidents, funded by public health grants.
- A pilot is underway in Maui, and additional islands are being sought for tabletop exercises. Hospitals are asked not to remove bands to maintain tracking during inter-facility transfers.

### **HHEM's Juvare System**

- Mark Moriguchi, Director of Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition, shared that Juvare EM Track is used statewide by hospitals for disaster patient tracking and integrates with the web ELCS platform. Pulsara Band & Scan is not a replacement

for Juvare but is complementary. EMS agencies generally do not use Juvare; it is hospital-based.

- Coordination between Pulsara and existing systems like Juvare was emphasized. Band & Scan targets everyday multi-patient incidents rather than large-scale disasters. Trauma centers will gain better visibility of patient flow and volume.

## **9:55 AM – HAH State Trauma Coalition – Matt Wells**

### **Proposal for Hawaii State Trauma Coalition**

- Mr. Wells introduced a proposal to form a Hawaii State Trauma Coalition, modeled after the Hawaii Stroke Coalition.
- HTAC has served its purpose but lacks permanence and flexibility.
- A separate, nonprofit entity can be more agile and effective. He has partnered with Hilton Rathel (HAH) to fund legal corporation.
- Legal support is being provided by Kyler Shaw of Ashford & Wriston.
- A mission statement is being drafted with help from Audra and Jeff. A call for volunteers to join a workgroup for further development was made.

### **Hawaii Stroke Coalition Overview**

Matt Koenig explained the structure and benefits of the Hawaii Stroke Coalition:

- It is a private nonprofit with legislative support, recognized for an advisory role in EMS stroke care guidelines.
- Hospitals and EMS agencies have voting membership.
- Enables nimble decision-making and collaborative action (e.g., switching from Alteplase to Tenecteplase, bypass protocols).
- Leadership rotates every two years to ensure shared governance.
- The coalition fosters trust and standardizes care across the state.

### **Benefits of Trauma Coalition Formation**

Garrett Hall added context and national examples:

- Similar models exist in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Texas.
- A nonprofit trauma coalition can complement HTAC by handling peer review, PI, and system-level initiatives outside state regulatory limits.
- HTAC would remain as an ad hoc advisory body, while the coalition would take on operational collaboration and case review functions.
- Such a coalition would still partner closely with the Department of Health and access data resources (e.g., trauma registry).
- This shift increases transparency and compliance with sunshine laws.

## **10:25 AM – Injury Prevention Updates, Legislative Updates, HTAC Sunshine**

### **Injury Prevention**

- Drowning Prevention: Led by Jessamy; DOH issued a press release; Governor involvement expected. Drowning is the leading cause of traumatic injury for ages 1–15 in Hawai'i.
- Traffic Safety: HDE (Health Data Exchange) was implemented via a traffic safety grant, enabling better outcome tracking. A "Zero Deaths" campaign for Trauma Month is active on DOH platforms.
- Fall Prevention: Legislative funding secured for the campaign. Future plans involve AI and app-based tools for in-home fall risk assessment.
- Suicide Prevention: EMS secured a grant to offer mental health and SUD training. Scholarships through KCC and ESO's on-demand learning platform will expand access to hospitals and EMS providers.
- Injury Prevention Plan: An updated statewide injury prevention plan is in development, in parallel with the trauma system plan.

### **Legislative Update**

- Makalawena Ambulance Bill: Establishes a new ambulance on the Big Island.
- Fall Prevention Funding: Funds the fall prevention campaign. Additionally, a Senate resolution was introduced to form a workgroup for Air Medical Services, in response to Sayre Foundation plans to expand helicopter services.

## **10:28 AM – Reports**

### **Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) – Marilyn Matsunaga**

- Deferred to the EMSAC website for current reports and data. Next EMSAC meeting: July 16 at 9:30 AM. Open to public attendance.

### **Office of Public Health Preparedness – Garrett Hall for Judy Kern**

- Participated in a federal NDMS (National Disaster Medical System) tabletop exercise in partnership with Queen's. Initiative simulates large-scale wartime repatriation medical support.
- Mr. Wells acknowledged Queen's and HPH participation; Tripler Army Medical Center also involved. Special thanks to Dr. Nakagawa.

### **Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management (HHEM) – Marc Moriguchi**

- No updates to report but recognized for contributions to NDMS efforts.

### **Hawaii Society of Trauma Nurse Leaders – Jeff Later**

- Jeff Later, HTAC member from Maui Memorial Hospital, updated the council on ACS survey readiness and performance improvement (PI).

### **Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) – Kristy Luke**

- Reworking HandTevy instructor certification (in procurement).
- Drafting pediatric readiness standards with two capability tiers; collaboration with hospital professionals underway.

### **Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) – Lisa Dow**

- No Updates

### **Regional Trauma Advisory Council Reports**

#### **O‘ahu – Jill Slade**

- Strong support for the Pulsara Expansion Project was noted.
- Jill Slade from the Queen’s Health System confirmed engagement; Mr. Wells emphasized future project work.

#### **Maui – Jeff Later**

- No new updates.

#### **Big Island – Wendi Wagner**

- Wendi Wagner, HTAC Member from Kona Community Hospital, confirmed ad hoc structure re-engaged and that they met in March.
- Focused on island-wide pre-hospital trauma triage guidelines—aiming to unify protocols across the island to address concerns from medics.
- Follow-up meeting postponed due to Chief Honda’s retirement, to be rescheduled for June.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was officially adjourned at 10:56 AM HST.

### **Next Meeting: Proposed 2025 Future HTAC Dates**

0900-1100 (virtual & and/or in-person)

Aug 14<sup>th</sup> (Confirmed) – Canceled

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> (Confirmed)