

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, November 14, 2025
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINTUES

Date: 11/14/25

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 and Opening Remarks – Dr. Caesar Ursic

Caesar Ursic, MD, FACS; Chair of Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council (HTAC), welcomed attendees to the HTAC meeting on Friday, November 14th, 2025.

A. Roll Call/Introduction

Representative Present: (16 representees)

Chair: Caesar Ursic

Vice Chair: Matt Wells

Mona Arcinas, Korey Chock, Audra Roulet, Jill Slade, Michelle Morua, Jeffery Later, Wendi Wagner, Alissa Lo, Darshe Mendoza, Shawntay Thomas

Jason Brill, Howard Wong, Devin Puapong, and Steven Kim

Representative Absent:

Marilyn Matsunaga

Attendees

Tiffany Allen, Amy Briggs, Mona Arcinas, Cecily Wang, Momoko Chiba, Amy Chong, Andrea Chow, Lisa Dau, Dominic Pomponio, Christina Donayri, Eric Vaughan, Daniel Galanis Garrett Hall, Heidi M Solberg-Shankle, Jason Lopez, Jeffery Later, Jon Rosati, Julie Wachtel, Kilipaki Kanae, Kathleen Martin, Kimberly Flesch, Julie Kobayashi, Matthew Koenig, Ronaold Kuroda, Micheal Lam, Deborah Lau, Robert Lau, Libby Char, Dwayne Lopes, Brent Lopez, Kristy Luke, Marc Moriguchi, Max Matias, Matt Conklin, Aaron Mitchell, Debbie Morikawa, Stacey Oho, Jasmine Okita, Joseph Puente, Tina Miller, Renee Zerui and Other Unidentified Microsoft Team Attendees.

9:13 AM – DOH & EMSIPS Branch Updates – Garrett Hall

A. Trauma System Updates / Reports

1) Trauma Contract and Updates / Modification

- i. Mr. Hall explained the distinction between claims data (used for funding and billing analyses) and patient-level registry data (used for trauma performance improvement).
- ii. Emphasized that registry entries represent a subset of total injuries statewide, and that multiple claims may originate from a single patient encounter.
- iii. Highlighted efforts to collaborate with rural hospitals and critical access facilities to pilot Level IV trauma designations.
 1. A new work group will reconvene in January 2026 to define appropriate state-level criteria.
- iv. Three facilities have expressed interest in participating in the pilot project.

2) Trauma Quality and Improvement Program (TQIP)

Mr. Hall Introduced Kathleen Martin, Trauma Assistant Consultant, leading the statewide Trauma and EMS Performance Improvement (PI) initiative through CDC grant funding.

- i. Program goal: to establish a statewide, peer-reviewed trauma morbidity and mortality (M&M) review process by the end of the year.

- ii. Ms. Martin will visit Hawai'i in February to coordinate with hospitals and host virtual training sessions.

3) Trauma Registry and Data Dictionary

Mr. Hall distributed a draft 2026 Trauma Registry Data Dictionary for review.

- i. The update aligns Hawai'i's data elements with National Trauma Data Standard (NTDS) definitions while maintaining 2025 inclusion criteria.
- ii. Finalized version anticipated by the end of the month; feedback to be submitted via email.

B. EMS Updates / Reports

1) Federal Funding and Modernization

Reported on a major \$55 million proposal submitted to the governor and federal agencies for EMS and trauma system modernization over five years.

- i. Proposed initiatives include medical communications upgrades, tele-trauma expansion, fleet modernization, and helipad infrastructure improvements.
- ii. Expected federal response date: December 5, 2025.

2) Air Medical Coordination

Hawai'i now has three air medical providers integrated into Phase 1A of the MEDICOM Transport Center.

- i. The DOH website now includes an interactive trauma center map and a secure online reporting tool for air medical events.
- ii. Future updates will include hospital capability listings and live air resource tracking.

C. Injury Prevention Updates / Reports

1) Data Requests:

- i. Following Dr. Dan Galanis's retirement, all data inquiries should be directed to the DOH EMSIPS Branch general inbox for routing.
- ii. Dr. Galanis will be recognized for his contributions at the upcoming Hawaiian Islands Trauma Conference.

2) Upcoming Events

- i. National Injury Prevention Day – November 18, 2025 (Governor's proclamation pending).
- ii. Queen's Trauma Symposium – November 21, 2025.

D. Legislative Updates / Reports

1) Administrative legislation to modernize HRS §321

Clarifying definitions for EMTs, paramedics, and trauma system designations.

- i. Intentionally excluded funding-related sections to avoid delays in legislative finance committees and maintain existing tobacco fund allocations.
- ii. Discussion acknowledged the need to plan for future trauma system sustainability should tobacco fund revenues decline.

E. Trauma Network – Robert Lau, Data Manager

TraumaNet is a statewide radio system integrating broadband and Wi-Fi to connect trauma centers for better coordination during mass casualty incidents.

1) Current Needs:

- i. Site visits to assess radio signal and Wi-Fi access (must not require splash screens).
- ii. Each facility should provide a point of contact.

2) Push-to-talk alternatives:

- i. Hospital-owned phones, iPads, or computers may be used in place of radios.
- ii. Connectivity challenges: Facilities with Wi-Fi restrictions may need broadband or Starlink (pending rural health funding).
- iii. Goal: Ensure all trauma centers have reliable, secure communication tools—either radios or mobile devices—for disaster readiness.

10:18 AM – Pulsara: Band and Scan Project – Garrett Hall

Implementation progress remains steady despite contracting delays with the vendor.

- Statewide go-live date (originally January 1, 2026) will be adjusted, with a new target to be shared at the next meeting.
- Several EMS and fire agencies have begun adopting Pulsara technology on a limited basis.
- The project continues to serve as a critical step toward real-time patient tracking and communication between prehospital and hospital trauma teams.

10:19 AM – Reports

A. Trauma Office of Public Health Preparedness
No updates were provided.

B. Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management (HHEM)
No updates were provided.

C. Hawaii Society of Trauma Nurse Leaders – Audra Roulet

1) Audra Roulet-Whaitiri provided updates as Co-Chair:

- Group now meets every other month, with communication and project alignment transitioned to DOH oversight.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 2026.

D. Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) – Lisa Dau

1) Lisa Dau shared statewide highlights:

- 15 car seat safety events held across O‘ahu and Kaua‘i.
- Over 620 car seats distributed or checked.
- Awaiting final data from neighbor islands for the full annual report.

2) Continued focus on community outreach and child passenger safety initiatives.

E. Trauma Centers

1) Queen’s Medical Center

Jill Slade presented on behalf of Dr. Jin Ra.

- Trauma volume remains stable with ~3,300 patients in the registry.
- Transfers: 41% from outer islands, 58% on-island.
- Geriatric patients make up a significant portion of the volume.

Christina Donayri (TJ):

- Completed a rural trauma class at Kahuku (October 17, 2025).

- v. Partnering with Maui's Cameron Rogers on an 8-week "Matter of Balance" course.
- vi. Launched a car seat program at Queen's—7 seats distributed this year post-MVCs.

2) Kapi'olani Medical Center – Alissa Lo

Alissa Lo presented pediatric trauma updates:

- i. Shared injury severity and EMS triage data.
- ii. Conducted multiple simulation and Stop the Bleed trainings in collaboration with DOH and local partners.
- iii. Mentioned ongoing discussions regarding a helipad project—not yet confirmed.
- iv. Introduced concept of open-source pediatric trauma simulation tools discussed at the Pediatric Trauma Society Conference.

3) Tripler Army Medical Center – Audra Roulet Whitiri

Audra Roulet-Whaitiri reported that Tripler's trauma team has resumed operations after a federal furlough.

- i. Their reverification survey was rescheduled from February to early May 2026, providing additional preparation time.
- ii. Expressed optimism about regaining momentum post-furlough and continuing close coordination with DOH.

4) Pali Momi Medical Center – Matt Wells

Matt Wells submitted a written report for the record.

- i. Upcoming ACS reverification visits scheduled for March 26 - 27, 2026.
- ii. Lead reviewer will be Dr. Daniel Marguiles.
- iii. Expressed appreciation for community outreach partnerships.

5) Maui Memorial Medical Center – Dr. Cesar Ursic

- i. Maui's Level 3 reverification is scheduled for October 1st, 2026.
- ii. Temporary CT scanner in use due to equipment replacement.

- iii. Maui can accept transfers from the Big Island (excluding complex pelvic or vascular cases).
- iv. Encouraged direct contact for coordination.

6) North Hawaii Community Hospital – Michelle Morua

Preparing for trauma survey on February 9–10, 2026.

- i. Reviewers: Dr. Christine Cocanour and Dr. Michael McConnell.
- ii. Q3 2025: 112 trauma patients (85 modified, 22 non-activated, 5 full activations).
- iii. 9 transfers to Queens and other centers.
- iv. Expressed gratitude for support from Queens and colleagues.

7) Hilo Benioff Medical Center – Darshe Mendoza

Focused on Epic system rollout (went live November 1, 2025).

- i. Q3 trauma volume: ~656 patients, 55 transfers.
- ii. ACS visit scheduled for July 30–31, 2026.
- iii. No major updates beyond Epic implementation.

10:20 AM – Data Presentation / Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – Garrett Hall

A. Interactive dashboards (mortality tracking, trauma volume, and statewide performance metrics.)

- 1) The system now integrates Performance Review and Quality System (PRQS) indicators, allowing each trauma center to drill down by month or facility.
 - i. A total of 202 trauma deaths were captured during the reporting period; the statewide target remains zero preventable deaths.
 - ii. These dashboards are synchronized with ACS verification standards and available for all Level III and higher trauma centers to adapt for local use.

B. E-Bike Injury Data Initiative

Using data from the Department of Transportation (DOT) grant and the ESO prehospital system, DOH developed a new E-Bike Injury Dashboard.

1) Key Findings (2022–2025):

- i. 712 E-bike-related injuries recorded statewide.

- ii. Roughly 17% annual increase since 2022, though trending slightly downward in late 2025.
- iii. About 20% of cases involve youth aged 13–18 years.
- iv. Geographic clustering observed in the Ewa Beach area, suggesting a need for focused outreach and prevention.

2) Methodology:

- i. AI tools were used to scan EMS narratives for keywords (e.g., “E-bike,” “electric bicycle”) to identify relevant cases.
- ii. Recognized data limitations due to inconsistent reporting terminology

3) The dashboard supports real-time community injury prevention planning and reflects ongoing integration between EMS, trauma registry, and public health data systems.

10:54 AM – Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Dr. Caesar Ursic

Previous meeting minutes were included in the meeting invitation for review.

- No corrections, amendments, or objections were raised.
- Minutes were approved unanimously by consensus.

Adjournment:

The meeting was officially adjourned at 10:58 AM HST.

Next Meeting: Proposed 2026 Future HTAC Dates

- 1) January 23, 2026
- 2) April 17, 2026
- 3) July 24, 2026
- 4) October 23, 2026

HTAC Voting Members

Organization	Representative	2nd Representative
HTAC Chair Maui Memorial Medical Center	Caesar Ursic, MD, FACS	
HTAC Vice Chair / Pali Momi Medical Center	Matt Wells, RN	
EMSAC (Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee) Chair	Marilyn Matsunaga	
EMSAC – Maui County	Mona Arcinas	
EMSAC – Kauai County	Vacant	
EMSAC – Hawaii County	Vacant	
EMSAC – Oahu	Korey Chock, EMT-P	
Wilcox Medical Center	Vacant	
Tripler Army Medical Center	Audra Roulet MLS, BSN, RN	Jason Brill, MD
The Queen’s Medical Center	Jill Slade, RN	Jin Ra, MD, FACS
North Hawaii Community Hospital	Michelle Morua, RN	Howard Wong, MD, FACS
Maui Memorial Medical Center	Jeffrey Later, RN	
Kona Community Hospital	Wendi Wanger, RN BA, MN, TCRN	Genia Taitano, MD, FACS
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children	Alissa Lo, RN, BSN, CEN	Devin Puapong, MD
Hilo Benioff Medical Center	Darshe Mendoza RN, BSN	
Adventist Health Castle	Shawntay Thomas	Steven Kim MD, FACS