

HEMSIS Quarterly



Emergency Medical Services &
Injury Prevention System Branch

ABOUT HEMSIS

Welcome to the first edition of HEMSIS Quarterly. HEMSIS is an acronym for the Hawaii Emergency Medical Services Information System. This update, like HEMSIS, will be used for communication and information sharing among the State and Hawaii's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies and providers. While not meant to be all-encompassing, it will provide a snapshot of projects from the Department of Health - Emergency Medical Services Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB), EMS agencies across the state, as well as other key partners involved in pre-hospital care.

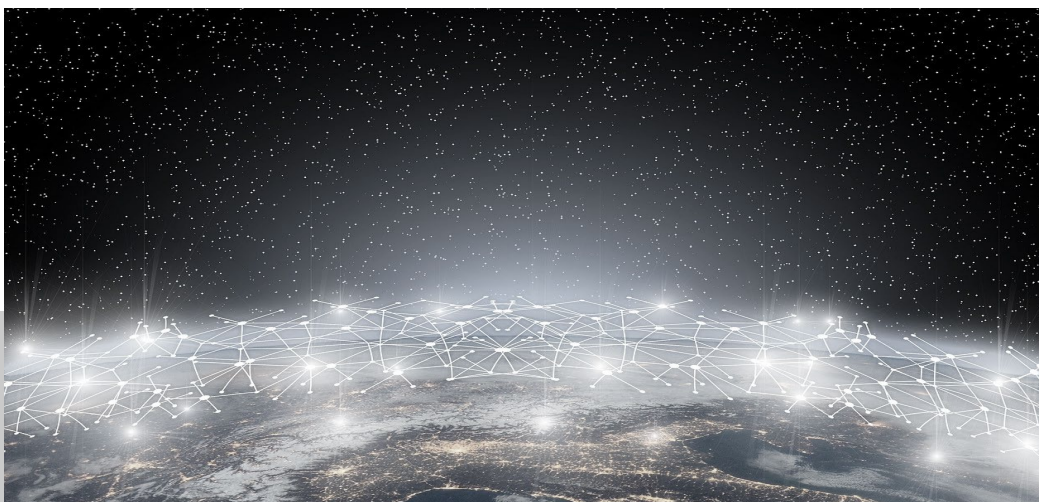
Through this update, we hope to create more collaboration, share knowledge and ideas between agencies, and engage in more robust partnerships to improve overall emergency medical care in Hawaii.

We invite our partners to use this platform to share updates on operational and injury prevention initiatives, new and on-going trainings, community outreaches, and other inspirational stories. Additionally, each agency can feature an "employee spotlight," highlighting and sharing about an individual who shows exemplary care and service in the community.

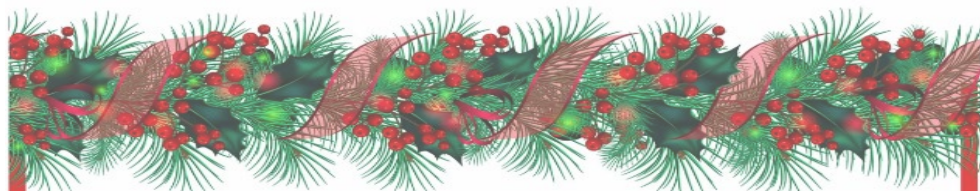
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BRANCH-
SPONSORED
ADVANCED HAZMAT
LIFE SUPPORT (AHLs)
TRAINING
COMING SOON



THANK YOU, EMS COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM BRANCH CHIEF...

Aloha EMS agencies and partners,

EMSIPSB has made great strides this past year in strengthening existing programs and creating new partnerships. Our injury prevention programs continue to make positive contributions within the State. Over twenty stakeholder groups are participating in the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides Amongst Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Multiple public service announcements were broadcast for our annual senior falls prevention campaign. The traffic safety program recently received two grants from the National Transportation Highway Safety Administration (NTHSA) / HI Department of Transportation (HIDOT) to enhance traffic safety outreach and post-crash care. The Branch provided drowning prevention educational materials to multiple new partner groups. Additionally, the Branch is excited about the debut of the Handtevy program statewide which will improve pediatric care.

Hawaii's EMTs and paramedics are the backbone of the State's EMS system. Your contributions are invaluable to the health of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Even in times of disasters, EMS is there. This was exemplified by the EMS response to the Lahaina wildfires.

Thank you for making a difference for your patients and the Hawaii community.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy holiday season!

Alvin C. Bronstein MD, FACEP
EMSIPSB Branch Chief

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



Maui AMR

Maui AMR has made outstanding strides in training their providers to use the newly implemented Handtevy system for pediatric care. As of November 2023, 51% of their providers completed their certification training. Currently, Maui shared that 94% of medics have had exposure to in using the system. Mahalo Maui! EMSIPSB hopes this tool proves helpful in your life-saving work.



EMSIPSB UPDATES

With the end of the pandemic, EMSIPSB continues to find ways to grow and evolve in all areas focusing on injury prevention.



During the COVID-19 pandemic outreaches and in-person events across the state were limited to small gatherings or were held virtually. With the end of the pandemic, EMSIPSB continues to look for ways to grow and evolve in all areas focusing on injury prevention. Participation in outreaches and other community events have not only resumed but has expanded. While EMSIPSB continues to focus on individual injury prevention areas (traffic, senior falls, drowning and suicide prevention), it now also combines efforts for multiple topic areas and with various partners.

Do you attend or participate in an outreach or community event that EMSIPSB could be a part of? Let us know and we'd be happy to partner with you and your organization!

Motor vehicle crashes are consistently a top cause of fatalities and serious injuries in Hawaii. With around 100 fatalities due to traffic crashes annually, education, technology, enforcement, and infrastructural changes continue to make an impact on curbing these numbers. Post-crash care through EMS and trauma centers also continues to play a critical role in the survivability of crashes.

Senior falls prevention continues to be an important focus, especially for our very family-oriented communities. We are blessed to have such a strong group of Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention instructors who recertify every two years to ensure the correct protocols. Our wonderful volunteers make all the difference for our kupuna.

Drowning prevention continues to be important as Hawaii has the second highest drowning mortality rate in the U.S. Drownings between residents and non-residents are equally split with ocean drownings being the leading cause of fatalities between 2013-2022. Drowning prevention efforts include but are not limited to networking with local partners and non-profit organizations, providing community education and resources in the community.

On average, four Hawaii residents die of suicide every week which equated to 1,003 lives between 2018-2022. Our goal is to help build a strong and comprehensive state suicide prevention infrastructure that includes supporting suicide prevention systems, organizations, partners, initiatives, taskforces, evaluations, education, and data-sharing. Upcoming initiatives are the Hawaii's Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families; the fourth annual State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment; statewide trainings; and more. In 2024, we hope to continue to build and strengthen the suicide prevention network, spur cross-discipline collaborations, and integrate across funding sources.

HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE

EMSIPSB (through a grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration [NHTSA] and the Hawaii State Department of Transportation [HIDOT]) is working with EMS agencies and trauma centers across the state in an effort to launch an integrated health data exchange (HDE) and new trauma registry systems. Through integrating these systems, pre-hospital and hospital partners can benefit from a more seamless patient handoff, improve quality assessment, and increase overall patient care.

Some of the challenges with current systems include (but are not limited to) a delayed chart exchange from pre-hospital providers to trauma centers through systems that are not optimized to pre-populate hospital data fields, and varying amounts of information given at handoff. Another issue stated by EMS agencies is receiving no information back after dropping off patients at the emergency departments (ED). This creates gaps in feedback and data that would be useful for building/improving staff morale, identifying areas for quality

improvement, and improving training for EMS practitioners.

Many of these challenges can be minimized with the incorporation of HDE. In near real-time, HDE will integrate the pre-hospital chart into the hospital chart for a more seamless flow of patient information. EDs will be able to receive a more complete picture of patient care received even before the ambulance arrives at the facility. Furthermore, repeat data entry (i.e., patient name, address, insurance information, etc.) can be minimized or eliminated between entities.

In the example depicted below, a bicyclist is struck by a vehicle and EMS is called to the scene. This and other motor vehicle collisions continue to be a leading cause of severe injury in Hawaii. A prehospital chart is generated at the time of dispatch. EMS care is recorded into the prehospital chart by the EMTs/MICTs. While the ambulance is on-scene and enroute

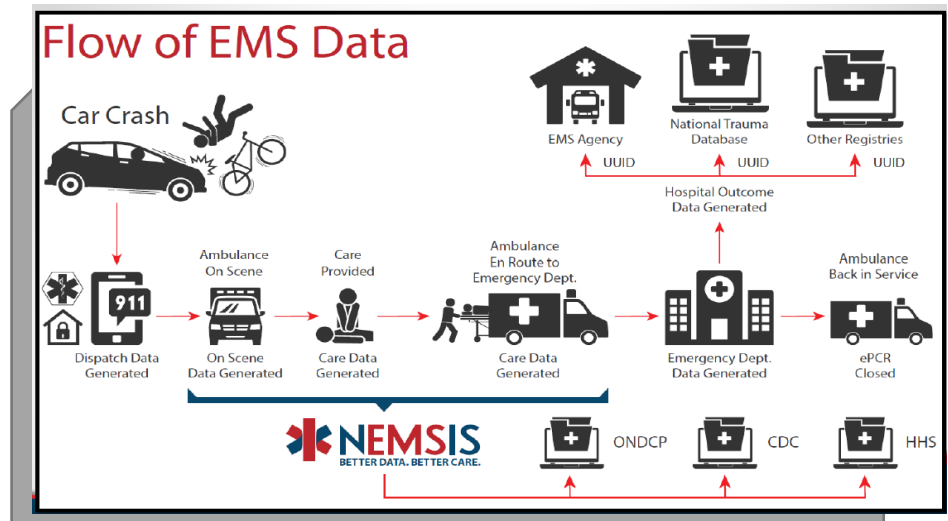
to the ED, the data will be automatically shared and pre-populate the hospital chart's corresponding fields.

Upon arrival to the ED, EMS will still provide a verbal handoff, but all information will also be documented in the integrated prehospital to hospital chart. The ED will be optimally prepared to take over care for the arriving patient with a more seamless flow of information.

In addition to the individual patient care aspects, aggregate hospital outcome data can be shared back to EMS agencies and to national registries such as the trauma database. By utilizing a universal unique identifier (UUID), data can be shared, and trends can be detected.

EMSIPSB would like to send a warm mahalo to NHTSA and HIDOT for this opportunity and their support of this project, EMS, HDE, and moving our state forward in post-crash care.

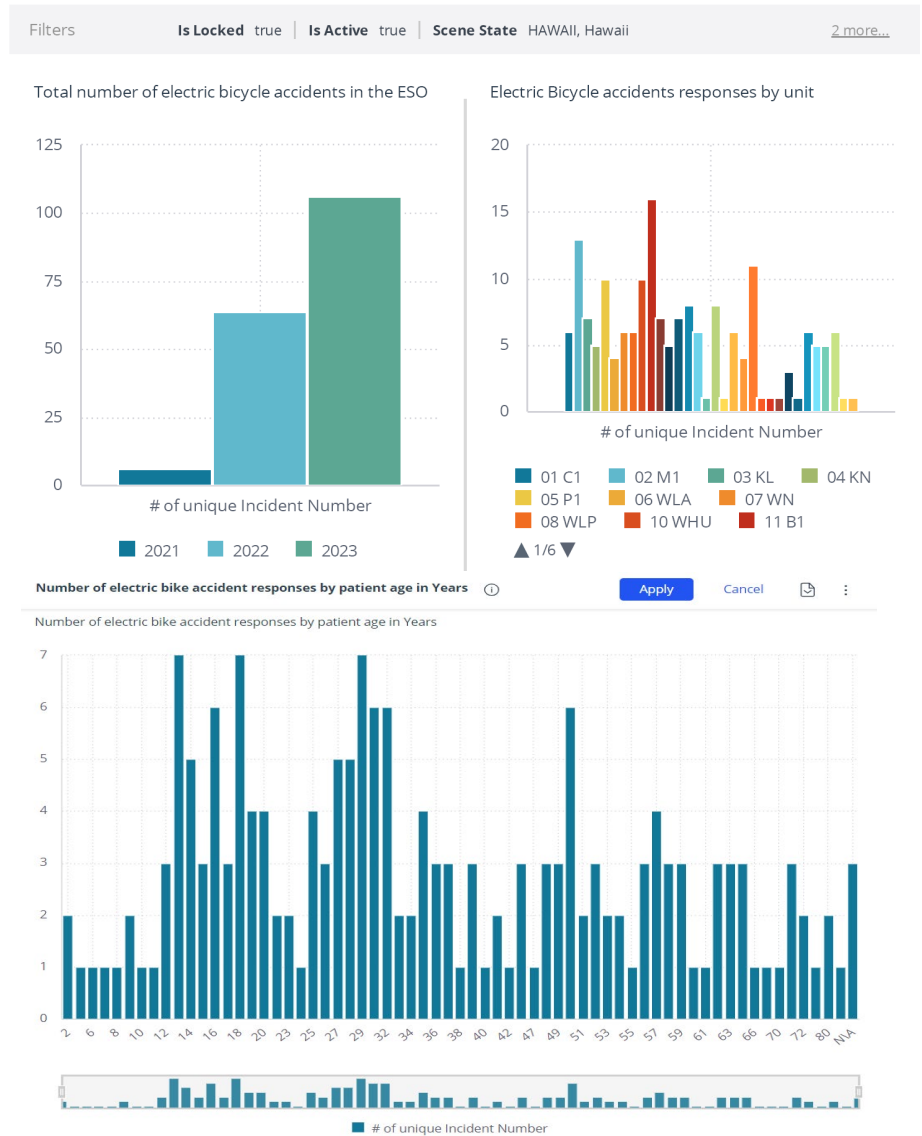
EMSIPSB is working to integrate data across pre-hospital and hospital entities to improve overall emergency care.



HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE (CONTINUED)

Insights is a new feature in ESO that takes patient-level data and aggregates it to create data trends and identifies performance improvement items for both individuals and agencies. Insights combines the best functions of ESO’s analytics and ad hoc analysis into one easy product. Agencies, hospitals, and registries can download data to do ad hoc analysis and it also allows for each user to have specific dashboards. Insights allows users access to a library of standard dashboards that are created and maintained by ESO. If a standard dashboard doesn’t exactly fit your needs, designer-level users can also duplicate and customize it to fit your situation, create all-new dashboards, and share within your agencies. Additionally, Insights provides an incredibly useful feature of being able to intuitively search the provider narratives for keywords at the provider and agency levels. Previously, agencies had to submit a request and wait for ESO to add data fields to track specific variables. With this new feature, agencies now have quicker access to information, can aggregate their own data, and track new trends.

To test the feature, EMSIPSB has designed several new dashboards at the request of the City & County of Honolulu EMS. Dashboards included EMS responses to individuals who are houseless, suicide attempts, and electric bicycle (e-bike) collisions.



Based on filtering electronic patient care report (ePCR) narratives, EMSIPSB was successfully able to capture most of the incidents that matched the three categories of interest. For example, electric bicycle incidents were identified by including the key terms of “electric bike,” “e-bike,” “electric bicycle,” or “e-bicycle” in the narrative search. The three graphs (pictured above) are part of a new built dashboard, which demonstrates the total number of e-bike incidents EMS responded to, which units responded, and ages of the patients. Data shows a substantial increase in incidents over the past three years with most involving individuals in their teens, late twenties, or early thirties. This information will be helpful for targeting these groups for the most effective prevention and intervention efforts.

2023 FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR



Belinda Lee has been named the 2023 Honolulu First Responder of the Year. A well-deserved recognition having served as a paramedic for the City and County of Honolulu for over 40 years. Additionally, Belinda is an active EMS educator, mentor, and Registered Nurse. When asked about Belinda, a former colleague praised her stating, “Belinda always had the drive to be better at what we do.”

In a short interview between EMSIPSB and Belinda, she had this to share:

What made you want to become a paramedic?

It’s silly, actually. "Emergency!" was a popular tv show at the time I was finishing my bachelor’s degree at UH. I originally wanted to be an environmentalist and work in the backcountry, but jobs at that time in that field were scarce. Then, an EMT job announcement in the newspaper caught my eye, so I applied. There was a written aptitude test and an initial physical testing that consisted of carrying a 100-lb sandbag for 75 feet up and down a flight of stairs and doing 5 minutes of continuous chest compressions. There were so many applicants that I thought I wouldn’t get in, but I was asked to come back. I started EMT school two weeks after graduating from UH.

What keeps you going? What is your mantra?

You have to have a passion to help people, serve the community, and a drive to provide the best possible patient care. You need to wear so many different hats in this job, not just as a medical professional, but as an educator, social worker, rescuer, etc. The intellectual demands are a lot, and all of these skills need to be done well. You also don’t know what environment you’re going to be in—it’s not a controlled environment like a hospital. In a hospital you can always call for extra help and resources, you know where your supplies are, and there is a lot of assistance. In the field, you don’t know what challenges you might encounter—it’s fun but it can be scary. It tests your coping skills, and you have to rise to the challenge. You need to think and act on the fly, which is the neatest part of the job. You challenge yourself and you have to always try to give the best patient care possible with what you have.

What is your message to all new EMTs and paramedics starting out?

Look within yourself and whether you truly want to give to patients and the community. After a few years, the glow of the job will dim. At your core, you still have to have the capability of giving to the community and remaining strong with patient care. You can’t just be there for the headline-grabbing calls, but also for the people who call for minor things. You need to show compassion to those who test the system or call repeatedly for problems sometimes of their own making. The majority of calls are like that. A lot of what you see are chronic problems, drug-related, mental health related, and the result of poor personal choices and lifestyles. You need to understand that you have to treat everyone the best you can no matter what their choices are. You won’t be able to fix all the gaping holes, but you can’t lose sight of the fact that you are making a difference. You are a part of a whole. You start the medical process in the field, and---as tiny a part as it seems---your care matters. You can make a difference for every patient; even though you can’t save everyone, you still need to do what you can.

Belinda, thank you for your dedication and service. You are truly an inspiration in the Hawaii community. Wishing you a heartfelt congratulations from EMSIPSB!

KAUAI

Kauai AMR shared the following press release from the American Ambulance Association “Stars of Life”:



NEWS RELEASE

DECEMBER 15, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Tito Villanueva
Email: tito.villanueva@amr.net
Phone Number: (808)639-3819

AMR Paramedic Michael Taboniar Honored in Washington, DC as a 2023 Star of Life

Washington, DC—This November, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) recognizes extraordinary EMS professionals during the annual Stars of Life celebration. Dozens of individuals from across the United States will be honored as the 2023 Stars at this year's event.

Stars of Life pays tribute to the dedication of these hometown heroes while shining light on the critical role EMS plays in our healthcare infrastructure. During their time in our nation's capital, the Stars will receive medallions and plaques in thanks for their lifesaving and life-sustaining service. Additionally, the Stars, accompanied by their families and executive hosts, will meet with members of Congress and congressional aides to discuss policy issues critical to emergency medical services.

This year, American Medical Response (AMR) is proud to share that Paramedic Michael Taboniar is among those recognized. “Thank you for always going above and beyond the call of duty in service to our community,” said Operations Manager Tito Villanueva.



Paramedic Michael Taboniar is passionate about providing quality EMS to the Kauai community, a service he's provided for the past 28 years. Born and raised on this small island, Michael has taken a personal approach to ensuring that his 'home' has the resources and personnel to ensure residents get the mobile healthcare they need when they need it. As a lecturer and assistant instructor in EMS at Kapi'olani Community College, Michael is enthusiastic about promoting the EMS profession through education. This past year, he taught a class of 20 new EMTs and led advanced courses for other EMS professionals. He was also instrumental in facilitating a community training center on the Kauai Community College campus where all active AMR providers can gain hands-on training on new tools and devices. As an EMS advocate who cares deeply about his community's well-being, Michael is an avid volunteer who has often served as a standby EMS

#StarsofLife



presence at local sporting events. He also spearheaded mock crash exercises to promote safe driving among high school students.

American Ambulance Association President Randy Strozyk noted that, “EMS professionals work tirelessly to provide round-the-clock healthcare when it is needed most.” He continued, “Together, we honor this year's Stars of Life, and thank them for the countless hours of service they have dedicated to their local communities.”

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MAUI

On December 10, 2023, Maui AMR volunteered for the second year in a row to help with Toys for Tots. The charitable program distributes new toys, books, and resources to disadvantaged children during the holiday season and beyond. Toys were mainly distributed to kids in Lahaina and recipients got to choose any gift they wanted.



Maui Medevac safely transported 1,000 patients since its inception in 2004.

Additionally, Maui AMR volunteered for Target's Heroes And Helpers event on December 16th, 2023. Target has a partnership with Catholic Charities and hosted the event this year in which 75 underprivileged keiki were paired with a First Responder to shop for their Christmas gifts.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Originally from Ilhabela, Brazil, Andrea moved to Maui at the age of 17. Andrea is a mother, paramedic, and an internationally recognized water athlete. She is the 1st woman to surf the Eddie Aikau Big Wave



Andrea Moller

International (2023) and join the Water Rescue Patrol at Peahi (Jaws - Maui) - WSL and Red Bull Magnitude rescue team. Andrea's goal is to motivate both men and women to tap their potential and to be a role model to young athletes. She is a volunteer with the AED Institute which hosts community events, spreads knowledge of how to react in an emergency, and provides CPR & AED education for children. Andrea is also the founder of Ho'olana - an ocean event for children and adults with disabilities.