

The American Heart Association mission is:  
 to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Serving Hawaii

**Testimony supporting intent of SB 2074,  
 "Making an appropriation for development of  
 a non-emergency report system, known as 3-1-1"**

The American Heart Association supports the intent of SB 2074, but urges legislators to support the final passage of SB 637, SD2 which has the same basic language (the surcharge was eliminated as unneeded from SB637, SD2 with agreement from both House and Senate conferees and the Honolulu Police Department) and was carried over from last year's legislative session.

The Honolulu Police Department's 9-1-1 system is the funnel point for police, fire and ambulance calls on Oahu. Unfortunately, the system is also the only available means for the public to call with non-emergency police calls ranging from barking dogs to illegally parked vehicles. At times the system is even used by callers seeking city information. In times of true emergencies the sheer volume of calls can overwhelm the system resulting in callers being put on hold. This in turn can result in delays in response by emergency rescuers.

This can especially have dire consequences in instances of a cardiac emergency. The development of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and their placement on most emergency vehicles in Hawaii has led to many lives being saved that might once have been lost to sudden cardiac arrest. However, the ability of those life saving machines to be effectively used is predicated on their being applied to the victim within 10 minutes. For each minute that passes without a proper heart rhythm being restored, a cardiac arrest victim loses approximately 10 percent of brain function due to lack of oxygen. Those who go more than 10 minutes without having a proper heart rhythm restored by an AED have little hope of being revived. Therefore, every minute becomes vital in increasing the odds of a victim being saved. Any delay in emergency responders arriving on the scene with an AED can be the difference between life and death, or in serious long-term disability occurring.

Estimated response times for police officers is between 2-4 minutes from the time of dispatch. For the fire department it averages response times 4-5 minutes from time of dispatch. For ambulance it ranges from 8-12 minutes from time of dispatch depending on ambulance availability. Add to those response times a 2 minute delay in dispatch caused by busy phone lines and emergency responders may arrive too late to use the life-saving equipment in which the city has wisely invested.

SB 667, SD2 would help to insure that 9-1-1 emergency callers will get the help they need when they need it. Since the language of that bill had been completed by both the House and the Senate and the bill needed only funding to achieve passage last year, it represents the quickest way to achieve the implementation of this life-saving improvement and will insure quickest and most efficient solution to the current 9-1-1 system's problems. It will also help to insure that we don't unnecessarily lose any more lives due to the lack of prompt connectivity with our first responders. The American Heart Association urges you to support the funding and passage of SB 667, SD2.

Respectfully submitted,

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