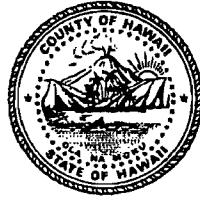


Harry Kim
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawaii

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February 9, 2006

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Health
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable David Ige
Chair, Committee on
Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

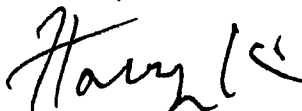
Dear Senator Baker, Senator Ige and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2404 Emergency Medical Services

Given the enormous geographic area that makes up Hawai'i County, an aeromedical helicopter is an absolute necessity when it comes to emergency medical services. Because of that, the County has been determined to keep its aeromedical helicopter operational, even though we have been unable to fund dedicated personnel to staff the unit. Instead, we use ground ambulance personnel, which reduces effectiveness and safety, as explained in SB 2404.

Rather than repeat the language already before you, we would simply ask you to recognize the importance of establishing staff dedicated to the aeromedical helicopter unit. Because it is so important, for residents and visitors alike, we ask for your favorable action on SB 2404.

Aloha,


Harry Kim
MAYOR