

Resolution

No. 23-201

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH TO CONTINUE TO CONTRACT WITH
AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY-MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE
COUNTY OF MAUI

WHEREAS, under Section 321-228, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the State Department of Health may contract to provide emergency-medical services, including ambulance service, in any county; and

WHEREAS, American Medical Response, or AMR, has provided emergency-medical services in Maui County for the past 44 years; and

WHEREAS, AMR has provided a high quality of care and has become accustomed to the County's people, culture, and communities; and

WHEREAS, AMR's standard is to provide each ambulance unit with at least one paramedic and all necessary supplies and equipment for advanced-life support; and

WHEREAS, an advanced-life-support unit, staffed by at least one paramedic, provides a higher level of service than a basic-life support unit, which may not be staffed by a paramedic; and

WHEREAS, paramedics can:

- apply extensive knowledge and experience to conduct an advanced assessment of a patient;
- insert breathing tubes in patients with respiratory failure and treat life-threatening lung collapse;
- use electrocardiograms to identify and respond to potentially life-threatening cardiac conditions; and
- insert intravenous and administer life-saving medications; and

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WHEREAS, residents and visitors of Maui County have been guaranteed an advanced-life-support unit would respond to their 911 call because of AMR's long-standing contract with the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2023, the Department of Health put out for bid the emergency-medical services contract for Maui County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health advised prospective bidders that a minimum level of advanced-life-support coverage was not required; and

WHEREAS, without a minimum level of coverage, ambulance units may not be staffed by paramedics or provide advanced-life-support services; and

WHEREAS, AMR responded to the Maui wildfires in August 2023, and provided essential service as paramedics set up a medical-incident command and triage in the first hours of the disaster, treated approximately 60 patients, and transported 32 patients; and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2023, Falck Northwest Corporation was awarded the contract for emergency-medical services in Maui County from December 28, 2023, to June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, according to press accounts, Falck Northwest Corporation has a recent history of substantial fines by California municipalities for failing to meet response times; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has not publicly released the contract with Falck Northwest Corporation, and it is unclear how ambulances in Maui County will be staffed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the State Department of Health to continue to contract with American Medical Response to provide emergency-medical services in the County of Maui; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; the

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Honorable Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Mel Rapozo, Chair, Kaua'i County Council; Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH, Director of Health, State of Hawai'i; Debbie Kim Morikawa, Deputy Director for Health Resources, Department of Health; State of Hawai'i; Donovan Keliipuleole, President, Maui County Paramedics Association; Mona Arcinas, Maui County Operations Manager, American Medical Response; William "Speedy" Bailey, General Manager, American Medical Response; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

paf:clm:23-246a

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

ALICE L. LEE