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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WIT-62 ✓
mrg
BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

2020 JAN 22 AM 10:50

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

In reply, please refer to:
File:
EMSIPSB 20-07

January 10, 2020

Ms. Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Multimodal Transportation Committee
County Council
County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Sugimura:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Maui County, Status of Grants under the Department of Transportation and Benchmarks for Grantee Performance (MT-29).

The Department of Health (DOH) is statutorily responsible for the provision of emergency medical services throughout the state.

Hopefully, the following answers your questions satisfactorily.

Question 1: Provide the total cost of the air ambulance program, including a cost breakdown for providing services to Maui County. How is the \$672,215 annual grant amount allocated to Maui County determined? How is the money used?

Response: The Maui Medevac helicopter is part of Hawaii's 911 emergency medical services system and administered by the DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch. The contractor for the service for the County of Maui is American Medical Response (AMR) Maui. The State bills each patient for the ambulance service. All revenues collected are returned to the state's general fund.

The County of Maui EMS 911 helicopter service is cost shared between the County and the State. The helicopter service was originally authorized in 2003 by the Hawaii Legislature in Senate Bill 745. The bill authorized the sum of \$611,500 from the state's general fund for fiscal year (FY) 2004 - 2005. The bill stipulated county matching funds in the amount of \$611,500. The law was amended in 2005 for FY 2005 and FY 2006. The state increased the authorization to \$1,000,000 for each year and increased the County's mandatory portion to \$650,000. This arrangement has continued with an annual MOU between the County of Maui and the State. For FY 20 the County's share is \$672,215. The DOH subsidizes the balance.

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TABLE			
Maui County 911 Helicopter	Budget	Budget	Budget
Description	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
Helicopter and crew	\$ 2,315,250	\$ 2,431,013	\$ 2,552,564
Insurance Carried by AMR	\$ 14,853	\$ 14,853	\$ 24,100
Training/recertification helicopter	\$ 8,289	\$ 8,620	\$ 8,373
Excise Tax on Helicopter Related Expenses	\$ 15,686	\$ 16,383	\$ 17,564
Indirect/Overhead/Profit/Tax	\$ 371,473	\$ 388,667	\$ 409,389
Total	\$ 2,725,551	\$ 2,859,536	\$ 3,011,990
Less Maui County Portion	(\$672,215)	(\$672,215)	(\$672,215)
Remainder paid by DOH	\$ 2,053,336	\$ 2,187,321	\$ 2,339,775

Question 2: Provide an overview on how the State-County partnership works to provide air ambulance services in Maui County, including how services are provided to rural areas of Hana, Molokai, and Lanai.

Response: The Maui 911 helicopter is dispatched through the Maui 911 dispatch center. The unit serves Maui county which includes Hana, Molokai, and Lanai. See table above for the costs for FY 18, 19, and 20:

Question 3: Are individuals who utilize air ambulance services assessed with a bill? If so, are they required to pay all or a portion of the services?

- a. How is the portion determined?
- b. How is the remainder of the bill split amongst the State and County?

Response: All Maui 911 helicopter patients are billed for their service by DOH. For 2020, the fee is \$8,527.00 plus \$21.00 per mile. All medications, IVs, oxygen, and medical equipment fees such as EKG are included in the fee. Air ambulance bills are the responsibility of the patient and their medical insurance provider. All revenues collected are returned to the State's General Fund.

Question 4: Provide a copy of the annual report of air ambulance services provided to the County.

Response: American Medical Response (AMR) Maui is the contractor for the Maui 911 Helicopter service. Annual reports are provided to the County by AMR Maui. In 2019, there were 61 Maui Medevac transports. Attached please find a chart showing a summary of all air ambulance activity for 2019.

A newer, more powerful and robust, helicopter replaced the older model helicopter. The new helicopter was put into service on March 28, 2019.

Ms. Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Multimodal Transportation Committee
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Should you have additional questions or require clarification, please contact Dr. Alvin Bronstein, Chief of the Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch, at 808-733-9329 or email alvin.bronstein@doh.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce S. Anderson".

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Director of Health

Attachment

2019 Maui Medevac Report

Month	Destination	Disposition-- Maui Memorial	Disposition-- (Other)	Total Monthly Transports
January				
	Haiku / Kula	2		
				2
February				
	Hana	5		
	Kalaupapa	1	Molokai General	
				6
March				
	West Maui	2		
	Hana	2		
				4
April				
	West Maui	1		
	Hana	6		
	Lanai	2		
				9
May				
	West Maui	1		
	Hana	4		
				5
June				
	West Maui	1		
	Hana	2		
	Lanai	2		
				5
July				
	Hana	7		
				7

Month	Destination	Disposition-- Maui Memorial	Disposition-- (Other)	Total Monthly Transports
August				
	West Maui	1		
	Hana	5		
	Lanai	3		
				9
September				
	Hana	6		
				6
October				
	West Maui	2		
	Hana	2		
				4
November				
	West Maui	1		
	Hana	1		
	Lanai	1		
				3
December				
	Lanai	1		
				1
			2019 TOTAL:	61

Note:

3/28/2019: New Medevac subcontractor to AMR: REACH Air Medical Services twin-engine (Eurocopter 135P2+) with Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) began operations.