HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-272

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE INTEGRATION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM INTO THE HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Services is responsible for providing effective and efficient health, safety, and emergency services to the City and County of Honolulu ("City") through its Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"), Health Services, and Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement ("CORE") programs; and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Fire Department ("HFD") is an all-hazards emergency response agency that serves the City; in addition to calls for fires, the HFD also responds to medical and other emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, news reports in recent years have highlighted some of the challenges facing the EMS program, including staffing shortages that resulted in ambulance rigs being taken out of service and unit closures; increased transfer times due to hospital emergency departments running at or over capacity; and lost revenues due to the transfer of ambulance billing and management from the State of Hawai'i to the City; and

WHEREAS, the integration of the EMS program into the HFD could improve emergency services on O'ahu by consolidating administrative, dispatch, and communication functions, thereby alleviating the burden of increasing demand felt by both departments; and

WHEREAS, the Health Services and CORE programs might better serve the City in other departments or as agencies attached to the Mayor's office; and

WHEREAS, the integration of the EMS program into the HFD could prove over time to be fiscally responsible, while also providing better care through decreased response times and an increase in the number of available units and personnel; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the City Administration to establish a task force to explore the integration of the Emergency Medical Services program into the Honolulu Fire Department and also study the migration of the Health Services and Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement programs of the Department of Emergency Services to other departments; and

RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to include representatives from the following entities in the membership of the task force, in addition to representatives from any other entities desired to be included by the City Administration:

- Department of Emergency Services;
- Honolulu Fire Department;
- Department of Human Resources;
- Department of Budget and Fiscal Services;
- Hawaii Fire Fighters Association;
- United Public Workers Hawaii; and
- Hawaii Government Employees Association; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-272

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Emergency Services, the Fire Chief, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services, the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, the State Director of United Public Workers Hawaii, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii Government Employees Association.

INTRODUCED BY:

Val A. Okimura

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

NOV 7 2024

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 24-272

Introduced: 11/07/24 By: VAL OKIMOTO Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)

Title: REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE INTEGRATION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM INTO THE HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

11/07/24	INTRO	Introduced.
11/19/24	PS	Reported out for adoption. CR-332 4 AYES: DOS SANTOS-TAM, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA
12/11/24	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted. 5 AYES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS 4 ABSENT: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, TUPOLA, WEYER

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK

TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER