

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 25, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 1410, SD1 Relating to Emergency Services (Ka'u Hospital)

Ka'u Hospital is a small rural facility serving a very large geographic area. Although the traditional population centers of Pahala and Naalehu are fairly stable, the number of residents in Ocean View has grown enormously, and so has traffic (and the potential for traffic-related injuries). While Ocean View can be serviced by either Ka'u Hospital or Kona Community Hospital, the need for emergency care in Ka'u is clear.

I know you have limited resources and unlimited priorities. I must defer to you as to whether SB 1410 can "make the cut," but hopefully it will be seen as a small investment of funds with life-saving rewards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR