

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ANNE E. LOPEZ
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MATTHEW S. DVONCH
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Ka 'Oihana O Ka Loio Kuhina
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1500

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Department of the Attorney General's Report on the Annual Statewide Inventory and Report of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits, as required by section 844G-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <http://ag.hawaii.gov/publications/reports/reports-to-the-legislature/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (808) 586-1500.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Lopez

Anne E. Lopez
Attorney General

c: Josh Green, M.D., Governor
Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor
Legislative Reference Bureau (Attn: Karen Mau)
Leslie H. Kondo, State Auditor
Luis Salaveria, Director of Finance, Department of Budget and Finance
Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System
David Lassner, Ph.D., President, University of Hawaii

Enclosure

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REPORT ON THE ANNUAL STATEWIDE INVENTORY AND REPORT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS

Pursuant to Section 844G-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Submitted to the Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025

A. Introduction

Chapter 844G, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), enacted in 2018, directs the Department of the Attorney General (Department) to establish the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training (HSART) Program; requires an annual statewide inventory and report of sexual assault evidence collection kits; provides for storage options of unreported sexual assault evidence collection kits; establishes mandatory submission and testing requirements for sexual assault evidence collection kits; requires a tracking system for sexual assault evidence collection kits; and provides guidelines for a victim's right to notification and other information.

Section 844G-2(a), HRS, requires that the Department establish the HSART Program with members who are directly involved with the use, management, and testing of HSART sexual assault evidence collection kits, or are involved with, communicate with, or otherwise support sexual assault victims. Section 844G-2(a), HRS, provides that the members should include, but not be limited to, the respective police departments of each county, the state or county Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) administrator, the respective prosecuting attorney departments of each county, and sexual assault service providers.

Prior to the enactment of chapter 844G, HRS, a federally funded HSART program, managed by The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) of Kapiolani Medical Center for

Women & Children, operated during a fifteen-year period from 1999 to 2014. Under SATC's leadership, members of that HSART program adopted national standards in the development and use of a statewide sexual assault evidence collection kit. Those HSART program members also collaboratively engaged in dialogue, coordinated training, achieved statewide standardization, identified and resolved problems, assessed effective practices, and provided victim-centered services.

Pursuant to Act 207, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, all law enforcement agencies and departments charged with the maintenance, storage, and preservation of sexual assault evidence collection kits were required to inventory those kits. The Department was required to work with community stakeholders to prepare a report on the number of untested kits then stored in each county¹. The current HSART Program was established in 2018 pursuant to section 844G-2(a), HRS, to build on these activities and accomplishments. The work completed by the Act 207 Working Group included the Annual Report Regarding Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits requested by House Concurrent Resolution No. 133, House Resolution No. 83, and Senate Resolution No. 44, S.D. 1 (adopted by the 2017 Legislature), and was the precursor of this annual report.

In addition to the Department, the members of the HSART Program include:

- Honolulu Police Department
- Hawaii Police Department
- Maui Police Department
- Kauai Police Department
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii County
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Maui County
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kauai County
- Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
- YWCA of Hawaii Island, Sexual Assault Support Services
- Child and Family Service, Maui Sexual Assault Center
- YWCA of Kauai, Sexual Assault Treatment Program
- CODIS Administrator
- Two Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners
- Two Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

The Department thanks the HSART Program members who have been instrumental in the development and completion of this report.

¹ Act 207 "Report on Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits Retained by County Police Departments, Plans and Procedures for the Disposition of Currently Untested Kits and New Kits, and Related Information" was submitted to the Twenty-Ninth State Legislature Regular Session of 2017 on December 1, 2016.

B. Annual Statewide Inventory of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits

The reporting period is for the fiscal year covering July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

The information in this report reflects the status of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits ("Saks" or "SAK" in the singular) in the State of Hawaii as of the end-date of the reporting period, June 30, 2024, and is not a representation of the status of the kits at the time of the submission of this report. The HSART Program members worked to ensure that the information contained in this report is clearly defined and that relevant definitions are provided.

Definitions from Section 844G-1, HRS

"Accredited and approved DNA laboratory" means a DNA laboratory that:

- (1) Meets the requirements of section 844D-54; and
- (2) Conducts DNA analysis eligible for upload to the Combined DNA Index System, as approved by its state administrator.

"DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid.

"DNA analysis" refers to the following process:

- (1) The taking of DNA samples from evidence containing DNA from a known individual or DNA of unknown origin;
- (2) The isolation of DNA to develop DNA profiles; and
- (3) The determination of the DNA test-results.

"Reported sexual assault evidence collection kit" or "reported kit" means a sexual assault evidence collection kit for a case in which:

- (1) The victim reported a sexual offense to a law enforcement agency; or
- (2) The victim reported a sexual offense to a law enforcement agency and a formal complaint was generated; the victim subsequently requested that the complaint be withdrawn; but the victim subsequently chose to reinstate the complaint.

"Sexual assault evidence collection kit" means a kit that contains a human biological specimen or specimens collected by a health care provider during a medical forensic examination from the victim of a suspected criminal sexual offense.

"Status" refers to the location, date, and time that a sexual assault evidence collection kit is transferred within the chain of custody.

"Unreported sexual assault evidence collection kit" or "unreported kit" means a sexual assault evidence collection kit for a case in which:

- (1) The victim chose not to report a sexual offense to a law enforcement agency; or

- (2) The victim reported a sexual offense to a law enforcement agency and a formal complaint was generated; but the complaint was subsequently withdrawn at the victim's request.

Table A, Statewide Data of SAKs, by County, provides the information for the annual report required by section 844G-3, HRS. Following each item below is a clarification (in italics) of the item as established by HSART Program members:

- (1) "The number of sexual assault evidence collection kits collected in each county" means *the combined number of SAKs collected for sexual assaults reported and not reported to law enforcement agencies.*
- (2) "The number of reported sexual assault evidence collection kits collected in each county" means *the number of SAKs collected for sexual assaults reported to law enforcement agencies.*
- (3) "The number of unreported sexual assault evidence collection kits collected in each county" means *the number of SAKs collected for sexual assaults not reported to law enforcement agencies.*

- (4) "The number of reported sexual assault evidence collection kits that were submitted to an accredited and approved DNA laboratory for analysis" means *the total number of SAKs submitted for DNA analysis during the reporting period, regardless of when the SAKs were collected or the testing status of the SAKs (e.g., SAKs are in process of testing or testing was completed). This number may include SAKs collected prior to the reporting period but submitted for DNA analysis during the reporting period.*

"Submitted" means possession of the SAK has been relinquished by the agency for direct delivery to an accredited and approved DNA laboratory for DNA analysis, provided that for the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), when testing will be completed by the HPD Scientific Investigation Section (SIS) lab, "submitted" means when possession of the SAK is relinquished by the HPD evidence specialist and the SAK is placed into the HPD-SIS evidence vault.

- (5) Of the reported sexual assault evidence collection kits submitted to an accredited and approved DNA laboratory for analysis, "the number for which analysis has been completed" means *the number of SAKs that have been returned to the submitting agency with DNA analysis results and reports, regardless of when they were submitted for DNA analysis. This may include SAKs submitted for DNA analysis prior to the reporting period for which results were returned during the reporting period.*

- (6) "The number of reported sexual assault evidence collection kits that were not submitted to an accredited and approved DNA laboratory for analysis" means *the number of SAKs collected during the reporting period (as indicated in Item 2 of Table A), where a decision has been made to not submit the SAK for DNA analysis. Table B lists the justification, by county, as to why the SAKs were not submitted for analysis.*
- (7) "The number of sexual assault evidence collection kits disposed of in each county, pursuant to section 844G-4," means *the number of SAKs for cases not reported to law enforcement agencies that have been disposed of.*
- (8) "The number of sexual assault evidence collection kits disposed of in each county, for reasons not provided in section 844G-4," means *the number of SAKs for cases reported to law enforcement agencies that have been disposed of. The reason for disposal is listed in Item 8A of Table A.*
- (9) "All reasons any kit was in an entity's possession for longer than the periods allowed under section 844G-5," means *explanations for a sexual assault evidence collection kit being in an agency's possession longer than allowable time limits specified in section 844G-5, HRS.*

Timeframes allowed under section 844G-5, HRS (entity in parentheses has responsibility for meeting timeframes):

- (A) From kit collection to police notification (sexual assault center responsible for collecting kit). Time: 24 hours
- (B) From notification to police to police taking possession (Police) reported or unreported but wants police to take custody. Time: 3 business days
- (C) From police taking possession to request testing to lab (Police). Time: 15 business days
- (D) From request date, notification to police to accept/reject (Lab). Time: 14 days
- (E) From acceptance by lab, submit for testing (Police). Time: 10 business days
- (F) Average completion rate for testing of the SAK (Lab) prior to July 1, 2023. Time: 180 days

Average completion rate for testing of the SAK (Lab) on/after July 1, 2023. Time: 90 days

Note: Testing of the SAK is considered completed when the testing results report is returned from the testing lab to the requesting law enforcement agency.

- (10) "The number of new prosecutions initiated as a result of an actionable Combined DNA Index System hit on sexual assault evidence collection kits collected prior to July 1, 2016," means *the number of persons charged by a prosecutor's office, based on an actionable investigative development directly resulting from the DNA analysis of the SAK, for cases in which the SAK was collected prior to July 1, 2016.*

"Actionable" is defined in the Act 207 Report to the Legislature (December 2016) as information that re-opens or furthers a case in any jurisdiction that will require the victim's involvement.

TABLE A
Statewide Data of SAKs, by County
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Item	Description:	Hawaii County	City and County of Honolulu	Kauai County	Maui County	Total
1	Sexual assault evidence kits collected (reported and unreported) during the reporting period	36	190	26	22	274
2	Sexual assault evidence kits collected (reported to police) during the reporting period	31	144	21	21	217
3	Sexual assault evidence kits collected (unreported to police) during the reporting period	5	46	5	1	57
4	Sexual assault kits submitted for DNA analysis during the reporting period	31	144	19	21	215
5	Police reported sexual assault evidence kits that have completed DNA analysis during the reporting period	28	133	20	20	201
6	Police reported sexual assault evidence kits collected during the reporting period that have not been submitted for DNA analysis (See Table B below for justification)	0	4	3	1	8
7	Sexual assault evidence kits not reported to police that are disposed of during the reporting period	0	0	2	0	2
8	Sexual assault evidence kits reported to police that are disposed of during the reporting period	0	0	0	0	0
8A	Reasons for disposal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	Noncompliance with specified timelines (See Table C below for justification)	0	9	0	0	9
10	New prosecutions initiated resulting from actionable CODIS hits (SAK cases prior to July 1, 2016 only)	0	0	0	1	1

For clarification of the data in this table and relevant definitions, refer to pages 3-6 of this report.

TABLE B
Justification for Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits Not Submitted to an Accredited and Approved DNA Laboratory for Analysis, by County
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Justification	Hawaii County	City and County of Honolulu	Kauai County	Maui County	Total
Case turned over to responsible jurisdiction	0	4	1	0	5
Victim consent not given to submit kit for DNA testing	0	0	2	1	3
Total	0	4	3	1	8

TABLE C
Justification for Noncompliance with Specified Timelines, by County
"Justification (# of sexual assault kits)"
July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024

Timeline Item	Hawaii County	City and County of Honolulu	Kauai County	Maui County
Item 9-A (SANE/SAFE notification to police) (24 Hours)	0	0	0	0
Item 9-B (Police taking possession) (3 Business Days)	0	7*	0	0
Item 9-C (Police Request to Lab for Testing) (15 Business Days)	0	0	0	0
Item 9-D (Lab Response to Police) (14 days)	0	2**	0	0
Item 9-E (Police Evidence Submission to Lab) (10 Business Days)	0	0	0	0
Item 9-F (Lab Testing Completion) (90 Days)	0	0	0	0

City and County of Honolulu

*Item 9-B (Police taking possession) (3 Business Days)

- Three kits were initially collected at Tripler but were transferred to HPD once jurisdiction was established.
- Two kits were initially collected in another state but were transferred to HPD once jurisdiction was established.
- Two kits were delayed in transfer to HPD due to SATC staff oversight.

**Item 9-D (Lab Response to Police) (14 Days)

- One kit was received without notification from another state. Additional time was needed to track down where it came from and how to proceed.
- One kit was inadvertently placed in the HPD Evidence Room instead of the HPD SIS Evidence Vault by the evidence specialist. This was not discovered until monthly reconciliation was done by HPD SIS staff.

Agencies that provided information for this report:

- Hawaii Police Department
- Honolulu Police Department
- Kauai Police Department
- Maui Police Department
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii County
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Maui County
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kauai County
- Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
- Child and Family Service, Maui Sexual Assault Center
- YWCA of Hawaii Island, Sexual Assault Support Services
- YWCA of Kauai, Sexual Assault Treatment Program